THE LOUISVILLE WEEKLY JOURNAL.

VOLUME XXXV. LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1865. NUMBER 14

WEEKLY JOURNAL.
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY
PRENTICE, HENDERSON, & OSBORNE.
JOURNAL OFFICE BUILDING,
Green street, between Third and Fourth.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE—IN ADVANCE.—Daily Journal $12; Weekly Journal $2 50.
All money sent in registered letters only at our risk.

NOTICE TO MAIL SUBSCRIBERS.
The time paid for is printed after the name on each paper, and thus every week subscribers can see when their term of subscription expires. Timely attention to this on the part of those desirous of renewing will prevent much annoyance.

☞ All advertisements must be paid for in advance or assumed by a responsible person in this city. This rule will not be deviated from.

AGENTS.
KENTUCKY.
M. L. Ogden, Owensboro. J. Hamsden, Bryantsville
Y. R. Bolling, Frankfort. S. J. Moore, Keene.
W. N. Vaughan, Greensburg J. D. Smith, Richmond
T. F. Burton, Versailles. E. S. Kaufman, Huntonville.
W. H. Kirtley, Mt Vernon. J. M. Lambdin, Hopkinsville.
H. Smith, Jr., Caseyville. Dr. H. L. Givens, Lagrange.
J. A. Curry, Harrodsburg. W. T. Coulter, Elkton.
C. J. Taylor, Columbia. B. M. Chambers, Georgetown.
J. B. Herndon, Maysleick. Sam'l Ray, Jr., Tompkinsville.
Leb. J. Bradford, Augusta. J. A. Richart, Owingsville.
J. N. Smith, Berry's Station. Thos. R. Taylor, Lewisport.
J. H. Chandler, Campbellsville.
Lainston, Crab Orchard.
Rev. Geo. S. Savage, Middlersburg.

☞ The above gentlemen are authorized to receipt for money due us for subscription to our paper.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1865.

☞ General Sherman is reported to have recently said in Savannah that, if the loyal States would prepare for going on with the war four years longer, it would be over in four months. This is a true conception of the struggle now before us. Nothing will so speedily terminate the war, as the display, on the part of the loyal States, of an unswerving resolve to carry it on regardless of costs, until the rebellion shall be utterly suppressed. We believe that the war has been unnecessarily prolonged by a lack of preparations required by the magnitude of the strife. The idea has prevailed among the national authorities, from the very commencement of the war, that conquest of the seceded States would soon be achieved, and our military organizations have been, for the most part, based upon that idea. This mistake has necessitated repeated efforts during the last three years, which might have been avoided by making full preparations, in the beginning, as demanded by the character of the war. It was not at first conceived that the rebellion would prove so stubborn a foe, and this misconception gave to the insurgents opportunity to arm for a tedious and dreadful conflict. Let the loyal States profit by experience. Let them prepare now for the future as though the war should last four years longer. This course will avoid additional preparation at the close of the next six months, as the armies of the nation will be so strengthened as to move with crushing effect against the foe.

A struggle like this cannot be prosecuted with too much vigor. We know that the loyal States are as determined now to conquer the rebellion as when they entered upon the work of suppression. Their own existence, safety, prosperity, are dependent now and forever upon the re-establishment of the American Union. The blood and treasure expended to crush the rebellion are expended to preserve the nation, without which we must sink, as a people, into utter insignificance. Every interest of the loyal States is staked upon a successful termination of this war. There should be, therefore, no lack of energetic preparation for carrying the struggle on. Prepare for four years, and the conflict will end in four months. The President's call for troops to reinforce our veteran armies appeals to the very life and soul of the nation. It should be answered with all the readiness and cordiality which that life and soul can inspire. Our population is ample. Our cities and fields are teeming with able-bodied men. They are needed to rescue the imperilled flag. They must be had, either by volunteering or drafting. If the quotas of the States, under the President's last call, shall be promptly filled, our armies will be amply reinforced, and the ensuing spring and summer campaign will end in triumph over every formidable military organization of the South. If, however, the armies shall not be properly reinforced, the war will necessarily be prolonged. The earth will demand still greater expenditures, still more men, and still more blood. Let the loyal States, therefore, act in the present with all their might, responding to the fullest extent of the hour, and our flag will be carried by Grant and Sherman to victory and early peace.

☞ If we can form a reliable opinion from telegraphic despatches, we may pronounce all recent efforts at negotiation for peace as a failure. The rebel leaders are not ready to accept terms of submission to the National authority. They demand separation, and this the Government will not and cannot concede. The consultations at Richmond and Fortress Monroe have produced no harm; they may at last prove useful to the country. They have produced no harm, because the determined spirit of the loyal States has not been diminished by the hopes of early peace which have been expressed for several weeks; they may prove useful by giving additional distinctness to the difficulties yet to be encountered in conquering peace and reasserting national authority.

It was hardly to have been expected that Jefferson Davis would acknowledge his Confederacy a failure and surrender the hope of empire while the formidable army of General Lee remained intrenched at Richmond. He has great faith in that army and its leader, and is determined to submit its prowess to the test of a final desperate struggle. He feels that, if Lee shall be victorious in the approaching battle with Grant and Sherman, his position will have acquired new dignity and power, enabling him to exact better terms of adjustment than could now be obtained.

It is now the duty of loyal men to pledge their faith anew upon the country's altar. The national armies hold the vantage-ground of the struggle. Their organization is effective, and recent triumphs inspire their ranks. Bloody and hotly-contested battles are yet to be fought. They will be fought victoriously if the Government be sustained by the efforts of a united and resolute people. The prolongation of war is now a necessity; peace cannot be had without sacrificing national integrity, and this were an exaction at which every lover of the Union would revolt. Peace must be conquered—the original jurisdiction of the Union must be re-established regardless of costs in blood and treasure.

The American people are acquiring ample experience in the grief and woe incident to a mighty struggle for national existence. The lesson is hard and painful, but it should be borne with heroic patience. The fruits of this struggle will be abundant in future glory and honor, and will nourish succeeding generations into sturdy and lofty growth. Grant and Sherman, Thomas and Terry are safe custodians of the national life in this hour of peril; they will carry the country's standard to victory and to peace. Let us, then, bear with fortitude the burdens of the strife—the end is not far off. Let the loyal States cordially respond to the President's call for troops—the next campaign will terminate the war. When peace shall come, we may be sure, it will be an enduring peace—a peace that will amply reward every battle fought to secure it.

☞ We have noticed with pain that some of our contemporaries treat in a censorious spirit the reception of peace commissioners from Richmond, alleging that such commissioners have no good purpose to accomplish, and therefore should not be allowed a hearing by our national authorities. The spirit thus exhibited is unworthy of an enlightened press. Why should not Stephens and Hunter and Campbell be received at Washington or Fortress Monroe with respect and kindness? Mr. Blair and Mr. Singleton (and even those minor peace lights Kirke and Jacquess) were hospitably treated at Richmond. Stephens and Hunter and Campbell are gentlemen of distinguished character, and they merit the most cordial hospitality. If their mission accomplished no good, it can produce no harm. Their mission cannot impair the determination of the Government to reestablish the national integrity at all costs.

☞ Since the removal of General Rosecrans from the command of the Department of Missouri it well known that he has been in retirement. He is now with his family at Yellow Springs, Ohio. The General thus far has been unable to ascertain the cause of his removal. He is a true soldier, and desires to serve his country in the field, but, strange to say, the War Department refuses to give to him a command. He is one of the ablest of our military chieftains, and during the war he has dealt some damaging blows to the rebellion. No man is more capable of handling a large army than the gallant Rosecrans. A few days ago the New York Commercial Advertiser, recognizing his merit and exalted genius, suggested the propriety of appointing him as General Butler's successor, adding, that, in encountering one reverse (that at Chickamanga), he had been no more unfortunate than either Grant or Sherman. The following letter from the General concerning this battle was addressed to the editors of that paper:

YELLOW SPRINGS, O., Jan. 23, 1865.

To the Editors of the Commercial Advertiser:

GENTLEMEN: Some one has furnished me with a copy of your issue of the 12th inst., containing a very generous article in reference to my military services, for which I feel none the less grateful, because, I doubt not, it was prompted by your interest in the country's welfare, and your sense of justice to those who have occupied prominent positions on trying occasions in her service.

But the article contains a remark about Chickamanga which is not strictly just. To correct it, I send you a pamphlet, written by the author of the "Annals of the Cumberland," which gives a correct and just view of the battle of Chickamanga. I may add that we lost four independent ways of arriving at the fact that we fought against terrible odds there.

1st. This was the opinion of the corps and division commanders, none of whom were bad judges.

2d. The enemy reports a loss of eighteen thousand seven hundred (18,700) killed and wounded, and admits his loss to have been 20 per cent of his entire command—a very large loss—which gave him 93,500 at Chickamanga.

3d. Bragg had 92,000 troops when driven from his intrenched camp at Shelbyville and Tullahoma, across the mountains and the Tennessee. Buckner joined him with about 10,000 troops from East Tennessee, Johnston with about 25,000, and Longstreet with about 25,000 more, giving again 92,000 as his whole force.

4th. Gen. Grant and several of his subordinates estimate the force fought at Mission Ridge at from 45,000 to 50,000. Add 25,000 for Longstreet's army, which had previously left, and 7,000 for Buckner's force, and 18,000 for those put *hors de combat* at Chickamanga, and it gives 88,000

5th. A Union merchant, of Chattanooga, who was at Marietta when the foe were advancing on us, tried to send me word, and subsequently saw and told me that the enemy had reinforced Bragg with 30,000 under Longstreet, and 25,000 under Joe Johnston, in addition to which Gov. Brown had 15,000 Georgia militia; and so confident were they of overwhelming us, that the Kentucky and Tennessee rebel refugees at Marietta had hired conveyances and loaded their household goods, expecting to follow their victorious hosts back into Tennessee and Kentucky.

I could add much more corroborative evidence to show that the brave and devoted Army of the Cumberland sustained and successfully resisted the utmost power of a veteran rebel army, filled with the spirit of emulation and hope, and more than one-half larger than itself, inflicted on it much more damage than we received, and held the coveted objective point, Chattanooga.

What we attempted we accomplished. We took Chattanooga from a force nearly as large as our own, and held it after our enemy had been reinforced by as many men as we had in our whole command.

W. S. ROSECRANS, Major-General.

The General states the facts clearly, and we believe impartially. On other sanguinary fields he established a reputation for brilliant generalship, and the battle of Chickamanga, though a reverse to Union arms, was not less disastrous to the Confederates. The rebels had made every preparation to crush the Federal army, abandoning many important points to make the grand concentration for this purpose. They failed in their object. Our army was beaten back but not crushed. The rebels suffered terrible loss, and their plans and high hopes for success were defeated. On account of this battle Gen. Rosecrans has been the object of severe and unjust censure. It is time that this should cease. We should not refuse to award simple justice to him, such as the facts in the case demand. He has won many brilliant victories for our cause, and instead of being kept in retirement he should be placed at the head of a responsible and active command.

☞ The vessels recentlyladened with provisions from Boston and New York, as a gift for the suffering people of Savannah, have just arrived in the latter city, and their bounteous store is being impartially distributed. Boston and New York by sending these vessels, in response to a Southern cry of want, illustrated the prevailing sentiment of the North toward the South—a sentiment which will finally serve as the sweet bond of Union when this unnatural war shall have closed in triumph over rebellion. The Northern people have been constantly represented by the leaders of secession as unchristian and cruel, and their followers have been greatly stimulated to resistance to the Government by such slanderous representations. But now a fruitful source of reflection and instruction is furnished them in the benevolence of Boston and New York toward the conquered city of Savannah. We heartily rejoice that such benevolence has been shown. The heart of Georgia must be softened by this demonstration of ennobling charity. There were a portion of her people prostrated at the conqueror's feet, and suffering for the most ordinary comforts of life. They were not allowed to suffer long; they whom they looked upon as enemies gave them richly of their abundance. Boston and New York have thus exhibited a premonition of the good feeling which will prompt the whole North to extend a cordial welcome to the rebellious States when they shall submit to the laws, and resume their proper relations to the Union.

☞ Major-General Pope has just been given an important command which may serve as a new starting point in his military career which has been subjected to much censorious criticism. The Division of Missouri has been created, including the Departments of Missouri, Kansas, and the Northwest, with headquarters at St. Louis. General Pope's career in Virginia terminated in the summer of 1862, with a disastrous blunder on the Rapid Ann. He was then removed from command of the Potomac army and sent far out to the Northwest to defend the frontier against the Indians. Without a murmur he proceeded to his new field of labor, though subjected to what many deemed a severe humiliation. It was thought that he could win but few, if any, laurels in the cold Northwest, but his gallant and sacrificial conduct there has retrieved his former reputation, and now the Government has brought him back and intrusted him with a command which offers an attractive field to his genius. We heartily congratulate him, and trust that his future career will be marked by brilliant deeds worthy of his brave and devoted spirit. He has quietly submitted to humiliation; in the meantime he has borne himself like a true soldier; and now, he deserves an arena in which his ambition, so long restricted, can have ample scope.

☞ We are informed by the latest European intelligence that on the 7th of January last the Spanish Ministers presented to the Cortes (or Parliament) a bill for abandoning the war against San Domingo. The bill announces that the finances of Spain, now greatly crippled, do not justify a further prosecution of the war, which has been in progress about three years. The resistance which the Dominicans have made to the Spanish arms has been of the sternest nature and shared by almost the entire population, numbering about 200,000 inhabitants. The ministerial bill which has been presented will, if adopted, be a complete recognition of Dominican independence. We doubt not that it will be adopted, as it meets with the favor of all political parties in Spain. Spain once held a proud position among European powers, and her dominions were very large, but her national strength has been utterly broken. The independence of the Dominican Republic will inspire with new vigor that party in Cuba, which has existed for many years, in favor of Cuban independence. They witness the feeble condition of the mother country, and will be apt to embrace the opportunity for carrying out a long-cherished scheme.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1865.

☞ There is a bill before the Kentucky Legislature for increasing the salaries of civil officers in the State. As we have not the bill before us, we are unable to cite its provisions, but its general subject has attracted our attention for some time. We are fully convinced of the importance, yea, the necessity, of a bill having the object of that now before the Legislature, and we hope it will be enacted at once. The salaries of our State officers are wholly inadequate to the present greatly enhanced prices of living. Those prices are likely to be increased, and provision should be made either for a proportionate increase of the salaries or their payment at the present rate in gold. Not only should the salaries of State officers be advanced, but, also, those of the judges and clerks of the respective courts throughout the Commonwealth. Men occupying these positions cannot live merely on the honors which pertain to them; they must have solid cash emoluments. They must be paid enough for their services to guarantee a comfortable livelihood. Such is not the case now. If we want men of high character to discharge public trusts, they must be offered some pecuniary consideration which will attract them. Else, such men will devote their talents and energies to other employments more lucrative, leaving the offices to be filled by men without capacity or integrity. This subject deserves the serious and immediate attention of our representative in the Legislature.

☞ Before the war the sea-coast of the New England States was in a remarkably defenceless condition. But few of the towns were fortified, and, in the event of foreign war, the great scope of country, with its villages and wealthy cities, would have been almost at the mercy of a vigorous foe. Portland, Portsmouth, Boston, and Newport were the only places fortified, and the works were far from being formidable. We were a peaceable people, and not familiar with the sounds of strife and the alarms of the battle-field. In our peace we felt secure and made no preparations to defend ourselves in case of a sudden and unexpected emergency. Four years have infused a different spirit into our people. They no longer repose a blind confidence in their ability to resist the aggressions of an enemy without any preparations for defence. We have become a warlike people, and armed ships and skilfully-constructed forts frown a protection to our coast and harbors. Before the rebellion the fortifications of Eastport and Castine were a mass of ruins. Fort Knox, on the Penobscot, was commenced, but the work was carried on tardily, and Bangor and other thriving towns were most exposed. As a work of defence, the fortification at the mouth of the Kennebec was useless, and Augusta, the capital of Maine, could have been taken by a hostile force with but little effort. Portland harbor was in a better condition, but the fort would have proved powerless if attacked by an iron-clad fleet. The Merrimac could have been entered, Newport burned, and Amesbury, Haverhill, Lawrence, Lowell, Manchester, and Nashua laid in ashes. But a marked change has come over affairs. The coast no longer is so utterly defenceless. Fort Nicholas, at the mouth of the Merrimac river, has recently been completed. Other points have been fortified, and if we should become engaged in a war with a maritime power, our sea-coast will not be so much exposed as it has been heretofore. Damaging and destructive as the war is, it has not proved wholly barren of good results. We have been roused from a lethargy that might, if prolonged, have proved our ruin. We were a nation possessing great strength, but almost helpless, because untutored in the art of war. We felt secure beneath the smile of peace, and, exposed and defenceless, were dreaming of prosperity, unconscious that foreign powers were watching us with jealous eyes and plotting for our destruction. We were as blind to our true interests and real condition, and as regardless of danger, as the maiden wrapped in the blissful dream of first love, gently reclining in a rudderless boat upon the bosom of some broad and quiet lake, unconscious of the stormy sky gathering overhead. The tempest came; our peace was broken—our feelings of security disturbed. We trembled at the first shock, but rallied from the blow, and prepared to combat the wildest fury of the storm. Our ship was not wrecked, and we have profited by the lesson. We are still a giant in strength, but no longer an untutored child of nature. The hour and the emergency called for prompt action. Our duty was plain, and we applied ourselves to our task with an energy really surprising. We have developed our strength, and science and art have made it effective. We are a warlike nation now, and abundantly able to take care of ourselves. The dream has been broken, and the awakening is proving beneficial.

☞ With great pleasure we have perused the able, manly, and conclusive speech of the Hon. J. S. Rollins, of Missouri, in favor of the constitutional amendment, delivered in the House of Representatives on the 13th of January. Mr. Rollins is an old-line Whig conservative, has generally been allied with the opponents of the present Administration, and voted against the amendment last session. We scarcely know whether to admire more the ability with which he defends his present position or the manly and moral heroism and exalted patriotism with which he assumes it.

The scope of his argument is to vindicate the legality of the amendment; the policy of conciliation accompanied with force, the indefeasible character of slavery in a moral, economic, or political view; to demonstrate that it *was*, in great measure, the cause of our trouble, and that there can be no permanent peace until that cause is removed. The reasons for supporting the amendment now, when he could not do so last year, are found in the changed condition of matters both North and South. They are conclusive. We hope to find room for some interesting extracts from this speech, especially those passages in which he alludes with so much eloquence and feeling to Kentucky, his mother State. The attempt some people make to maintain an abstract consistency of platform in the midst of a revolution and of events that discard hackneyed formulas of political faith is assailed, and its folly illustrated with manly good sense and exquisite humor.

All in all, the speech of Mr. Rollins was a remarkably fine effort. When the hammer fell at the expiration of the first hour there was a general expression of "go on" from both sides of the House, and at the expiration of the second hour he again had unanimous consent to go on, and did speak for some minutes into the third hour—a privilege and a compliment but once before bestowed by the House since the adoption of the hour rule, which was some years ago, when Gov. McDowell, of Virginia, was speaking against sectional agitation.

☞ It appears from the Washington despatches published in our columns yesterday morning, that the report of the Committee on the Conduct of the War relating to the failure of the attack on the enemy's lines before Petersburg, exonerates General Burnside from the blame which has been attached to him in the matter. General Burnside drew up the plan of the attack after having made all necessary preparations for its successful execution. The Committee are of the opinion that the cause of the defeat was the change of Burnside's plan to put the colored troops in advance of the attacking column. Colonel Pleasants, when testifying before the Committee, said that, if Burnside's plan had not been interfered with, "it would have been a success." General Meade had no faith in the plan, and, having interposed, is held, to a great extent, responsible for the failure.

BARRACKS NEWS.—Yesterday was a busy day with the officer at Barracks No. 1. About one hundred and twenty-five convalescents were received; one hundred and thirty-six men from Springfield, Ill.; two hundred and fifty mechanics from New York and Boston; and four deserters from Indianapolis. The transfers were one hundred and fifty-five to Nashville, seventy-seven to New York, fifty-one to Annapolis, twenty-seven to Philadelphia, seventeen to Cairo, twenty-one to Cincinnati, fifteen to Washington City, and ten to Chicago.

☞ It is now authoritatively announced that Gen. John C. Breckinridge has succeeded Jno. A. Seddon, of Virginia, in the rebel Secretaryship of War. The duties of this office in the rebel Government have been evidently marked by great labor and difficulty, if we may judge from the failures which have attended its administration. It has constantly been the theme of censorious criticism by the rebel press and the cause of great dissatisfaction throughout the South. Gen. Breckinridge is the third occupant of the office since the war began. Judah P. Benjamin came first, and, at the expiration of two years, was written down as an utter failure. John A. Seddon came next, and, within a few weeks past, he resigned his portfolio in consequence of an official application to President Davis, by the entire Virginia Congressional delegation, expressing a want of confidence in his capacity.

John C. Breckinridge now assumes the post when the military situation of the Confederacy is overcast with gloom. It is likely, however, that the duties of the office are less arduous and responsible now than ever, since the arena for rebel operations has been so greatly contracted by Federal victories. Blockade-running ceased with the capture of Wilmington, and, therefore, that important branch of the rebel service no longer demands attention from the Secretary of War. The trans-Mississippi Department is effectually cut off from communication with Richmond; the rebel army of Tennessee has been wellnigh broken up; Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Florida are beyond the reach of the Secretary's supervision; and Virginia and the Carolinas, occupied by the armies of Lee and Beauregard, prescribe the field of his labors. John C. Breckinridge has won but little prestige as a military leader. For a long time he was regarded as an utter failure by the rebels themselves. A few unimportant movements led by him in Eastern Tennessee and Virginia, within the last six months, somewhat retrieved his military fortune, and, in an hour of pressing need, he was chosen to his present doubtful position. John C Breckinridge criminally surrendered the arena of his fame and honor when he left the Federal Senate—where he had been placed as a favorite son of Kentucky. No other statesman of the day had achieved at so early an age, and within so brief a period, the rich honors which his own State and the nation had bestowed upon him, and had he stood by the imperilled flag when this war began, no public trust would have been beyond his reach. The nation made him all that he was, but evil political associations, and inordinate ambition, seduced him from the exalted path of duty. From the rebel Secretaryship of War he will make his exit into political obscurity, following in the wake of his immediate predecessor.

THE PEACE COMMISSION AND ITS RESULT—THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.—We have just received a letter from a distinguished Representative of Kentucky in the Federal Congress, which contains valuable information, and, though not intended for publication, we take the liberty of presenting our readers with the main portions of it:

WASHINGTON CITY, Feb. 4, 1865

GENTLEMEN: The report this morning is—and it seems well accredited—that the visit of President Lincoln and Secretary Seward to Fortress Monroe to meet the Confederate Commissioners, Stephens, Campbell, and Hunter, has failed to produce good results. This is a sad and bitter disappointment to proper thinking men. We had hoped much from it, while the Jacobinical radicals were cursing, scowling, and gnashing their teeth at the idea of such an interview. Indeed, *their* opposition to the efforts of Lincoln, Seward, and Blair at reconciliation, was a sufficient reason for me to approve those efforts.

But it is also stated that the reason of the failure is a positive demand for recognition and independence, which of course we can't accept. And the matter is having a marked effect here. Several of the most determined and bitter opponents of the Administration and of the war have openly declared that, *if* this version of the affair is correct, they are now for the war to the bitter end—among them Fernando Wood, who has just taken his seat.

If this thing had occurred one or two weeks ago, there would not have been forty votes against the amendment in the House. Mr. Cox had determined to go for the amendment, and to speak for it; and the same morning he was to do so, we learned the rebel commissioners had passed through our lines at Peterburg, and, *for fear* the amendment would be a hindrance to negotiation, went against it. I give him more credit for sincerity and consistency than most persons here. Were it to do now, he would go for it.

I was the first member to see Mr. Blair, on his return from Richmond. No man can doubt his desire for peace, and he was glad and gave very good reasons for his opinion, that the amendment would *facilitate* rather than impede negotiations for the restoration of peace and Union. He is rejoiced at its passage.

GUERILLAS IN GEORGETOWN.—Georgetown was thrown into confusion last Thursday by the appearance of a band of highway robbers, clad in Federal uniforms. They marched to within one hundred yards of the Court-house, where about thirty Federal soldiers were stationed, taking the town and soldiers completely by surprise. Here they began to assume a rather threatening attitude. When our gallant little force discovered that they were wolves in sheeps' clothing, they began to make preparations to fire upon them. Discovering this, the guerillas galloped off in the direction of Lexington. Subsequently, the outlaws arrested two citizens, and required them to carry back a message, demanding an unconditional surrender of the town, and threatening to burn the place and massacre the citizens should a single gun be fired on them. The message was delivered, but Lieut. Vallandigham, the officer in command, was not to be so easily intimidated. He informed the messenger that he would think of surrendering when he had fired the last cartridge, and at once prepared for action. He advanced on the migratory set, causing them to scamper. Our informant says some eight or ten of the marauders were captured and several killed.

The gallant little band which is stationed at Georgetown have endeared themselves to the citizens of that city. On the next day a complimentary dinner was tendered them at the Court-house the officers of the bank having previously extended to them a similar compliment. The tables were laden with every comfort the palate could wish, causing the most kindly greeting between the citizens and soldiers.

☞ A court-martial has been ordered by the War Department, to convene at Cairo, Illinois, for the purpose of trying Brigadier-General E. A. Payne, against whom charges have been preferred for maladministration whilst commanding the Western District of Kentucky. The court-martial will consist of Major-Generals Hunter, Heintzleman, Casey, and Brigadier-Generals Herron and Covington, and Colonel Carmichael, of Iowa. Colonel W. M. Dunn, Assistant Judge Advocate General, U. S. A., will be the Judge Advocate of the Court. We have already published the report of the Commissioners—Brigadier-General Fry, and Colonel Brown—who were authorized by Governor Bramlette to investigate the conduct of General Payne in Western Kentucky. That report was exceedingly severe in the exposure made. We have no reason for discrediting its statements, in view of the high character of General Fry and Colonel Brown. General Payne has since prepared a vindication of his administration, which, however, has not been made public. He will now be subjected to a thorough and impartial trial, and we shall patiently await the result.

DESERTERS.—The following men were arrested in the city yesterday as deserters: Henry Knox, 4th Kentucky cavalry; Wm. M. Estes, 4th Kentucky cavalry; George Knox, 4th Kentucky cavalry; Jesse B. Estes, company G, 4th Kentucky cavalry; Thomas McClinn, corporal company H, 4th Kentucky cavalry; Wm. Newton, company B, 10th Kentucky infantry; Allen M. Smith, 2d Kentucky cavalry; Martin Linn, company E, 4th Kentucky cavalry; Henry Hicks, company L, 13th Indiana cavalry, in New Albany.

☞ Some doubt is expressed as to the correctness of the report that Gen. Hood has been superseded by Gen. Dick Taylor in command of the rebel army of Tennessee. Hood has always been a favorite with Jefferson Davis, and it is thought that he will hardly displace him with Dick Taylor, whose career has not been more successful than Hood's.

☞ As the speech of Mr. W. R. Kinney on the slavery question, in the House of Kentucky Representatives, has been misrepresented to the people by reports, we publish the document entire, in order that the views of that gentleman may fairly be placed before the public:

Mr. Kinney offered the following resolutions on Thursday, January 5th, 1865, which were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, viz:

RESOLUTIONS IN RELATION TO THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY.

WHEREAS, There is a present exigency in Kentucky for labor, and unless some provision can be made to check the exodus thereof from the State, and encourage its immigration thereto, it is to be apprehended that there will not be a sufficiency thereof to till the soil during the coming season; and whereas, the institution of slavery has ceased to be effective for the purposes for which it has been hitherto sustained; therefore be it

1. *Resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky*, That the rebellion now existing against the just authority of the Constitution and laws of the United States, together with the measures which it was necessary for the Government to take to suppress the same, has so demoralized the institution of slavery, that the interests of Kentucky demands its immediate abolition within her borders.

2. *Resolved*, That to so amend the national organic law as to exclude slavery from all the States and Territories within the jurisdiction of the United States would be no violation of the reserved rights of the States, and would not be incompatible with the designs of the original framers of the Federal Constitution, and, under present circumstances, would redound to the interest of the whole country, and especially to the interest of our Commonwealth; therefore,

3. *Resolved*, That our Senators in the United States Congress are hereby instructed, and our Representatives requested, to vote for an amendment to the Constitution of the United States ordaining that slavery or involuntary servitude (except for crime), shall not forever remain abolished in the United States of America.

MR. SPEAKER: I am fully aware of the responsibility I have assumed in proposing the resolutions, from a further consideration of which the Committee on the Judiciary now seek to be discharged, with a view to their reference to a special committee. I am aware that the propositions therein will be assailed, and that, too, not only by those who will give loose rein to the tongue of slander, in order to gratify the malevolence of partisan or personal rancor. For the assaults of such as these I would care not. But I am satisfied that the propositions therein contained, or some of them, will be assailed by men whose good opinions I have always cherished; by men whose motives are pure, and whose impulses are noble; men who have sought, and who are still seeking, to discharge conscientiously every duty which they owe to their country; men whose patriotism is beyond all question, and whose loyalty is above all price; but who are not prepared to yield life-long prejudices, by the subversion of an institution which has been bequeathed as an entailed inheritance from sire to son since the formation of our State government; and, sir, do I speak extravagantly when I say, an institution which has become canonized in the hearts of our people? Therefore, in this discussion, I shall enter into no crusade against, nor shall I attempt to impugn the motives of those who may come forward to do bold and manly battle against these resolutions. Neither do I come here to-day to put off manacles, or fetters, or clanking chains. I am desirous of meeting a great crisis which is upon our people, and of aiding in the solution of a great problem which must be solved, and that right quickly, if we would avoid calamity for our proud old Commonwealth. I have, sir, embodied what I conceive to be the sentiments of this State in these resolutions, and, "appealing to God for the rectitude of my motives," I stand here to vindicate the truth of the declarations, and maintain the correctness of the policy contained in them against the assaults of all comers.

I am not one of those who have hitherto been opposed to the institution of slavery. It is true that the belief of the divine or inherent right of one man to hold another in bondage has never been a part of my creed. I have ever regarded this fanaticism as on a par with that other fanaticism, which would exclude the slaveholder from the pale of civilization and religion, and shut the gates of Paradise in his face. I have known that the Constitution and laws of the United States gave warrant for the holding of slaves, and I have believed that the institution was convenient for the white race, and beneficial, in many respects, to the black race; and, so long as it was mutually beneficial, I was a pro-slavery man. By reason of the uncertainty of slave labor, it is no longer beneficial to either the white or the black race. The time has come for the disruption of the tie between master and slave; and as the organic law of our State has fastened the institution upon us with a Gordian knot which cannot be loosed by means of State legislation, we must employ the keen edge of Federal interference to sunder it. And, sir, I think I will be able to demonstrate, by the recitation of facts daily transpiring before your eyes, that he who opposes this policy is not acting the part of a statesman, but is seeking to bind our State to the carcass of an institution after the life which animated and gave it energy and fidelity has fled, and is gone to return no more forever.

I will now, Mr. Speaker, proceed to a discussion of the propositions announced in the resolutions before the House; and if I succeed in sustaining them by fair and legitimate argument, I will then appeal to the member here to forget sectional and party rancor, to abandon past partialities, and shake off the fetters of prejudice, and boldly come forward, as patriots and as statesmen, to aid our people in emerging from the thick gloom which is now enveloping them and their enterprise.

In the first resolution, the odium which attaches to the present demoralized condition of slavery is laid at the door of the rebellion. That this is one of the many evils which has gushed forth from the Pandora's box opened upon the country by the leaders of the South. I think it will be hard for any one to gainsay. There never was a time in the history of our country when the institution of slavery was so perfectly secure, and the power to the opposition were more rigidly enforced, than when the rebellion was inaugurated by the secession of the State of South Carolina. The party which had hitherto been regarded as its assailant had just succeeded in electing a Chief Magistrate pledged to the maintenance of all the laws for its protection in State where it then had existence. But, inflaming that sensitiveness which had ever had being in the minds of the people of the South on this subject, and, taking advantage of the prejudice entertained by them against the party then about to be inducted into power—men, in whose diseased brains and corrupt hearts hatred to the Government that had cherished them and a determination for its overthrow had long been nurtured—seized upon the pretended idea of danger to slavery as a pretext for rebellion against the constitution and laws of the United States. And, sir, the truth of the aphorism, "he whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad," has been more than vindicated in the result of their action. They threw down the gage of battle upon the issue of slavery; they announced that this was the only issue in the contest; they promulgated to the world that they had torn down the symbol of our nationality, baptized, as it was, in the crimson tide which gushed from the pierced hearts of their fathers on the battle-fields of the Revolution; they taunted us with the declaration that they had inaugurated a rebellion which would exclude us from a heritage in the bones of our people fallen in our country's struggles, and now mingling with Southern soil; and they declared that they desired no heritage in that warm and generous blood of the South which had bathed even the rugged rocks of New England in defence of her altars and her firesides. And they announced, too, aye, unblushingly announced, that they had perpetrated this heinous crime, this great wickedness, upon the one inducement of making slavery the chief corner-stone of a new Confederated Government.

Thus, in the very opening of the war, was slavery hurled into the arena, and that, too, by those who claimed to be, par excellence, its friends. And, sir, if we are permitted to believe the declarations of the leading politicians of the South, it was designed by the rebellion not only to make the idea of slavery paramount where the institution then existed, but it was also intended to make it an aggressive power. When the thunder of the artillery which shook the walls of Fort Sumter was echoed and re-echoed all over our land, causing every patriotic heart to tremble for the manner in which the problem of man's capability of self-government was about to be solved, and when you, sir, and I, and the great majority of the members of this Legislature, believed and predicted that the Southern people were digging the grave of the institution of which they were the professed champions, Mr. Toombs, in a public speech, announced that the war *that* day begun by the South would be prosecuted, not only until they had wrenched from us the National Capital, but it would probably continue until they dictated their terms of peace in old Faneuil Hall itself. Another of their leading men (Mr. Cobb, I believe) declared that they would prosecute the war until he could call the roll of his slaves in the shade beneath the monument on Bunker Hill. The war was then in its inclipiency; and while these threatenings of carnage, of conquest, and tyranny, where breathed throughout the South, what were the utterances and what the actions of the Federal Government? The Executive repeatedly declared that he had no desire to interfere with the institutions of any of the States. Our venerable Crittenden presented a series of resolutions in the United States Senate, to the effect that the Federal authorities did not design to meddle with slavery, and if the people of the Southern States would lay down their arms and return to their allegiance, that no war should be made upon the institution, and these resolutions were almost unanimously adopted by both houses of Congress. As our armies advanced on Southern soil, the proclamations of our Generals breathed the same spirit. The property—including the slaves—of men whose hearts were black with treason toward our Government was scrupulously guarded and protected. But, notwithstanding all this, the insurgents still hurled into the arena their gage of battle upon the issue of slavery, and declared on every field of slaughter, and shouted from every rostrum, and preached in every house—dedicated to God, but by rebellion converted into a den of treason—that this was the question at issue, and for the maintenance of the divine right of slavery they had appealed to the God of battles, and were trusting to the arbitrament of the sword.

Mr. Jefferson said that the policy which governs the actions of nations and individuals may, without wrong, be sometimes changed, but principles never. The Union of the States was the great principle—the unchangeable basis upon which the superstructure or policy of our government was erected. The Union was declared by the great founder of the Republic to be the very palladium of our liberties and the bulwark of our independence. The Union gave proportion, power, energy, and vitality to our nation.

In the incipient stages of the war our Executive sought, by a conciliatory policy, to establish and secure that great principle of Union upon which the Government was founded. During the first two years of the war, notwithstanding the South urged and continued to hurl into the teeth of the President the issue of slavery, still he refused to accept that issue, and still were our gallant soldiery found daily kissing the red-hot shot, and toiling and bleeding and dying around the peerless ensign of the Republic, to preserve each one of its stripes from erasure and each one of its stars from pollution, and still were they found, at the dead hour of the night, with gun in hand, protecting the property of men who had just charged over the red field of carnage, thirsting for their blood. But in the summer of 1862, fearing that the policy of the nation in regard to the slaves of the insurgents might have to be changed, by reason of the persistency of treason upon this issue, and knowing that, in the ruin of the system in the seceded States would be involved its destruction in the loyal States, the President proposed to us a scheme of compensated emancipation. This would have secured to Kentucky about 65,000,000 of dollars for our slaves. But that same prejudice, or so-called conservatism, which will now resist the inevitable decree of fate which has doomed this institution to destruction, rejected the proposition, and denied us this remuneration. But, notwithstanding the proposal was hurled back into the face of the Executive with insulting scorn, and notwithstanding the vaunting of the rebels continued, yet still the Federal authorities, previous to September, 1862, made no war upon slavery. But, sir, when Southern treason sought to make, and were about to succeed in making, a proposition of emancipation on their part a great element in securing the recognition of the independence of the Confederate States by foreign powers, then it became necessary for our Government to alter the policy upon which the war had been previously conducted. *This* question now become apparent, and had to be determined: Shall the institution of slavery go down, or shall this Union, freighted as it is with the hopes and destinies of millions of freemen, perish, and that forever?

For at that time the recognition of the Confederate States by foreign powers would almost inevitably have secured their independence. And even if it had not accomplished this, it would just have prolonged the war, probably it would have involved us in strife with European powers, and caused the shedding of rivers of patriotic blood, every drop of which is worth more than all the slaves and slave systems in Christendom. And to secure that recognition, which would have been so detrimental to us and so advantageous to their policy, the leaders of the South announced their readiness to sacrifice slavery by their own act, in order that they might be enabled to gratify that ambition and hate, of which their treason was begotten. It was necessary, therefore, to forestall them in their designs, and, in September, 1863, Mr. Lincoln gave notice to the Southern people, that, unless they laid down their arms and ceased their treason, prior to the first of January, 1863, he would on that day issue his proclamation, declaring the slaves free in the seceded States. Not heeding the warning they persisted in rebellion, and on the first of January, 1863, the Executive of the United States accepted the gage of battle upon their own terms. He did not make the issue—he simply accepted that issue which they themselves had made.

As to the power of the President, as Commander-in-

WEEKLY JOURNAL.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1865.

SPECIAL MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR.—We are exceedingly gratified to publish this morning the special message of Governor Bramlette transmitting to the Legislature the Constitutional amendment as adopted by Congress a few days ago. Governor Bramlette in clear, forcible terms, recommends the ratification of the Amendment by the Legislature. We have not space at this hour of writing for any comment on the message, but we would earnestly express the hope that the Legislature will adopt the prudent and statesmanlike suggestions of the Governor.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR JACOB VS. THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.—We highly respect Lieutenant-Governor Jacob as a man and a patriot. Indeed, we think so well of him, we should like exceedingly that no difference should separate us on political questions. We deeply regret that a difference does partially separate us at this time. Men, however, are apt to look at the new and vital questions arising in these marvellous times from radically different stand-points, and each may be wholly honest, however erroneous, in his convictions. We freely accord to Lieutenant-Governor Jacob perfect sincerity in all the political opinions entertained and expressed by him, and, therefore, we give him respectful attention.

We have read with care and interest the speech he delivered on the 4th inst. to the State Senate when resuming his seat as President of that body, after a compulsory absence from Kentucky. The speech is a forcible one, and we heartily approve its main portion. We do not, however, approve that portion which is devoted to the slavery question, and, especially, the constitutional amendment just adopted by Congress, and now presented to the States for ratification, and we propose to briefly discuss that portion this morning. Lieut. Gov. Jacob said:

Submit always to the law of the land, altering that law constitutionally, if you think it wrong. But our consciences will not permit us to obey either the law or the great mass of our constituents. Then your consciences ought to force you to resign, until the law and the people are changed to suit your views. With these premises, what right have we to abolish slavery in this State regardless of its constitution? Neither the present constitution nor the present desire of the people is in accordance with any such scheme, and I say it earnestly, but most respectfully, we should violate both laws and the wishes of the people of the State if we should give effect to any such scheme. I care nothing for slavery—everything for law. If the majority of the people of the State choose to eradicate slavery in accordance with law, I, for one, will cordially acquiesce in that decision; but never against their will and wishes, and against law. Some say; But the greater number of the slaves are already freed by the strong arm of the Federal Government; we emancipate only a few. But you violate the law of your State, and the wishes of the great masses of the people. If the Federal Government has destroyed slavery by the strong arm, let it complete the destruction. I, for one, will not sanction its violation of law. If the Federal Government has the right by the strong arm to eradicate one species of property, it has the clear undoubted right to eradicate another species of property. Slavery, some cry, creates a continual disturbance, and ought to be eradicated. With equal force it might be said of the great national debt that we now have, and are accumulating daily, that it is a great burthen, creates want, and breeds dissatisfaction, therefore it ought to be abolished. You strike down, and undermine one species of property, and you equally strike at all other kinds.

A few words in regard to the proposed change in the Constitution of the Federal Government. I am opposed to it. Because such a change is contrary to the spirit of our system of government; because if ever made, it ought not to be made until all the States are represented in Congress; and because more than one-fourth of the States are not in their places in the Union, and, consequently, the change cannot be made constitutionally; but, if made, must be brought about by fraud and force. It becomes also a wedge which divides us still more as a people, and makes it more difficult to settle our national troubles. This is really the crowning objection to the danger.

The above remarks were evidently meant to enforce three points against the emancipation of slavery: First, that our State Constitution forbids present interference with slavery, and the people are opposed to any interference; second, that the proposed anti-slavery amendment as adopted by Congress is unconstitutional, and, if made, must be brought about by fraud and violence; and, third, that, if adopted, the amendment will increase the difficulty of settling our national troubles. Upon these three points we take issue with Lieutenant-Governor Jacob.

As to the first point: We are aware that, according to the terms of our State Constitution, the instrument cannot be amended by a convention so as to emancipate slavery in Kentucky earlier than the year 1870. If this course alone should be adopted slavery could not be legally affected in the State except by a slow and protracted process. But this is not the only course provided by which relief may be afforded to the existing demoralized condition of slavery in Kentucky. Our present Legislature may at once enact a law or amend existing laws so as to empower the master to emancipate his slaves, giving him the right to retain them in service by compensation for their labor. Such an enactment was suggested by Governor Bramlette in his recent message. Having referred to the fact that the rebellion had destroyed property in slaves, that such property now possessed only a nominal value in this State and required some remedial law, and yet that the Constitution could not be amended by an interdiction of slavery earlier than 1870, Governor Bramlette said:

In the *meantime*, if our laws were so amended as to give slave-owners the power to emancipate their slaves, and the right to retain them upon fair wages, say for ten years, securing the hire as a fund to colonize and settle the emancipated slaves, voluntary emancipation would become so general that, at the end of ten years, but little would be left of slavery to be adjusted by further action.

The above extract from the Message clearly cites a method for speedily getting rid of slavery without disregarding the Constitution, nor violating the laws of the State. It would be strictly within the purview of the fundamental law of the Commonwealth, and would quickly and effectively secure the great object of emancipation. A bill evidently based upon the suggestion of Governor Bramlette has already been introduced into the State Senate by Hon. Mr. Marshall, a copy of which we publish in our columns this morning. We have a delicate regard for the Lieutenant-Governor's "conscience," but we do not see that he would violate it by giving Mr. Marshall's bill his support. We believe, too, that such a measure would not conflict with the will and wishes of a large majority of our people who see and appreciate the inevitable destruction of slavery. The people know that slavery is virtually gone; they know that they cannot help it with all the prejudices combined which they have usually cherished against emancipation. We entertain no prejudices for slavery nor against it in the abstract. Our view of the subject is purely economic, and we are fully impressed by the unavoidable circumstances about us that slavery in Kentucky has lost its basis as an institution, and is bound to disappear from our midst, whether assisted by us or not. Its remains are the source of trouble only—they are effete and burdensome. We know that the current of events has made the tenure of the master very weak indeed, and has formed among the slaves of this State a strong wish for freedom, for the enjoyment of which they are becoming more impatient every day, and unless, in some way, there shall be legal interposition to control them, we shall soon lose all their labor. Our Representatives, therefore, owe it to their constituents to prepare the State for the rapidly approaching event of universal freedom. Something should be done to retain the present negro labor in the State, lest our whole domestic arrangements be broken up and our farms be left without field-hands and in many districts without any labor at all. The negroes cannot be cured of their impatience for freedom, but they may be induced, by compensation, to remain and cultivate our fields. Senator Bristow said, only a few days ago, that the largest slave-holders in his district were now making contracts with their slaves, paying them to stay with them. It was the only means of retaining them.

But the Congress of the United States has submitted to the people of the respective States a more ready and sweeping mode of destroying slavery, and it is against this mode that Lieutenant-Governor Jacob directs his two remaining points. Congress has adopted an amendment to the Federal Constitution which, when ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the States, will interdict slavery throughout the Union. Lieutenant-Governor Jacob says this amendment is not constitutional. What does the Federal Constitution say on the subject of amendments? The fifth article of that instrument is as follows:

The Congress, whenever two-thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or, on the application of the Legislatures of two-thirds of the several States, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the several States, or by conventions in three-fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress: provided, that no amendment which may be made prior to the year 1808, shall in any manner affect the first and fourth clauses in the ninth section of the first article, and that no State, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate.

It was in pursuance of the above provision in the Federal Constitution, that Congress adopted the amendment under consideration by more than a two-thirds vote—the Senate voting 36 against 8, and the House voting 119 against 56. The proposed amendment is as follows:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress Assembled (two-thirds of both Houses concurring), That the following article be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of said Legislatures, shall be valid, to all intents and purposes, as a part of said Constitution, namely:

ARTICLE XIII.

SEC. 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

SEC. 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

The power thus exercised is clearly granted by the organic law of the nation. The same power was used by Congress in 1861, sustained by the entire Congressional delegation from Kentucky, when that body, by a two-thirds vote, adopted an amendment, which, if ratified by three-fourths of the States, would have guaranteed slavery forever in the States where it existed. The question now is, whether or not three-fourths of the States will ratify the present amendment? If the loyal States are sufficient in number, they have a perfect constitutional right to ratify it. Lieut.-Governor Jacob, however, fears that its adoption will be effected by "fraud and violence." We do not see why such should be the case, nor do we think it will be. The States will be allowed to act freely on the subject. Voting as freely as Congress has, three-fourths of the Legislatures can reject the amendment, if they will. But, says the Lieutenant-Governor, it would be unconstitutional, because certain States now in rebellion are not represented in Congress. The same argument, if effective here, would destroy the binding force of every law enacted by Congress since the insurgent States seceded. What right, therefore, has President Lincoln to enforce in a conquered State any law of Congress passed since such State seceded? But, really, the States in rebellion are themselves to blame for this "taxation without representation." The national Legislature, however, has not lost its character nor power by the Southern rebellion.

The third point urged by the Lieutenant-Governor is that the amendment, if adopted, will increase the difficulty of settling our national troubles. This is an appeal to the prejudices of slavery. It is an appeal, however, which comes too late in this hour of popular revolution, an appeal which the rebels themselves will not appreciate. The rebel leaders know that this war has destroyed the roof and shelter of slavery. They openly declare that they are *not* fighting for the system. They are willing to give it up, and are preparing to do so. They propose to arm a hundred thousand negroes to fight against the Union, promising them mitimate freedom. They feel that slavery is gone, let this conflict end as it will, and amending the Federal Constitution so as to prohibit slavery will but hasten the removal of the vexed question from national politics. It will not complicate, but, we believe, facilitate, the adjustment of our national troubles when the period of adjustment shall arrive. Such is the opinion, we are authorized to say, which Hon. F. P. Blair has expressed since his late return to Washington from the Confederate Capital. His recent interview with rebel authorities impressed him with that conviction.

We have implicit faith in the patriotic motives of Lieut.-Gov. Jacob, but we regret that, in presence of the great events of the hour, he has taken the position espoused in his recent speech. He has unnecessarily assumed the burden of a death-stricken system. He has planted himself in opposition to an irresistible current of popular sentiment which is sweeping on to the overthrow of slavery. There is a high point from which he might have seen how ineffectual is the feeble struggle below for an institution which the logic of this mightier conflict for nationality is proving out of existence. We wish he had ascended to that high point, although, in doing so, he should leave behind many old associations and prejudices which have contributed to form his present views. We yet believe he will rise with the inevitable progress of events.

SPECIAL MESSAGE OF GOVERNOR BRAMLETTE, RECOMMENDING THE ANTI-SLAVERY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO THE KENTUCKY LEGISLATURE.

Message of Governor Bramlette, Tuesday, February 7, 1865, transmitting communication of Secretary of the United States in relation to an amendment of the Constitution of the United States, as follows, viz.:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, February 2, 1865.

To His Excellency the Governor of the State of Kentucky, Frankfort, Ky.:

SIR: I transmit an attested copy of a joint resolution of Congress, approved on the 1st instant, proposing to the Legislatures of the several States a Thirteenth Article to the Constitution of the United States. Your Excellency is requested to cause the decision of the Legislature of Kentucky to be taken upon the subject. An acknowledgment of the receipt of this communication is requested by

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,
F. W. SEWARD, Acting Secretary.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting:

I certify, that annexed is a true copy of a joint resolution of Congress, entitled, "A resolution submitting to the Legislatures of the several States a proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States;" the original of which is on file in this department.

In testimony whereof, I, William H. Seward, Secretary of State of the United States, have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the seal of the Department of State to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this second day of February, A. D. 1865, and of the Independence of the United States of America the 89th. WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

A Resolution submitting to the Legislatures of the several States a Proposition to Amend the Constitution of the United States.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of both Houses concurring), That the following article be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of said Legislatures, shall be valid, to all intents and purposes, as a part of the said Constitution, namely:

ARTICLE XIII.

Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Sec. 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Approved February 1, 1865.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

I hereewith lay before you, for your consideration and action, a joint resolution of Congress, approved on the 1st inst., proposing to the Legislatures of the several States a Thirteenth Article to the Constitution of the United State which article is in the following words, viz.:

ARTICLE XIII.

Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Sec. 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Approved February 1, 1865.

I might content myself with submitting this question to you for action without incurring the responsibility of any suggestions; but upon a matter of such vital importance to the people of Kentucky, involving, as I believe, their well-being and security, such course would not comport with my views of constitutional obligation, and the duties and responsibilities of the office of Chief Executive of the Commonwealth.

The views of the present Executive upon the subject of the proposed amendment, as a *national question*, are known and of record. We have no new lights upon this subject which could in the least modify or change those views. We still believe it was not wise, as a national policy, pending the rebellion, to propose amendments to the Constitution, which fix—irrevocably—an ultimatum of adjustment that had better have been held under the control of the Government. But our views of national policy have been overruled by those having authority to determine; and the question now presented, though national in its operation, is local for our consideration. We are not now called upon to consider the policy or impolicy of national action, but the bearing which this measure is to have upon us as a State and people. We should therefore approach it divested of all partisan asperities and sectional passions and prejudices, and meet it with the dispassionate consideration and prudent judgment of statesmen charged with the highest interests and most important securities and trusts of a brave, manly, and patriotic people.

No intelligent man, whatever may be his desires upon the subject, can hope for the perpetuation of slavery in Kentucky.

Every State which surrounds us has abolished slavery. The laws for rendition of fugitives are repealed, and so there is possible hope of their re-enactment. The most valuable slaves have enlisted in the army or fled to other States; those that remain are hopelessly demoralized, and rendered not only valueless, but burdensome. These facts are of general notoriety and indisputable.

Although much of this state of affairs has been brought about by what we have deemed unasked-for and unnecessary interference with the subject of slavery, yet it has been part of the bitter fruits of rebellion; and the facts exist and cannot be changed by denying them or closing our eyes to their existence. Whether the proposed amendment be ratified by you or not, slavery has been force-doomed by rebellion, and cannot be maintained.

It is not, therefore, a question for us to determine—shall slavery continue or not? but how shall it end. Though we may believe that the several States should have been left to adjust this question, yet will *mere mode* compensate for the dangers, hazards, and expenditures which we are likely to incur by refusing the mode proposed, and standing out for our own, which we deem better? In a word, if you agree that slavery cannot be continued, is it not better to accept a practical and legitimate mode of ridding our people of all the dangers and harassments of its further continuance than risk the dangerous ordeal through which we must pass in order to reach our own mode of accomplishing the same end? Will the difference in abolishing it, by amendment to the Federal Constitution, or by amendment to the State Constitution, justify the hazards of the experiment?

The people of Kentucky have never permitted the negro to intercept their loyalty to our Government. They have ever thrust aside and refused to accept the negro as an issue. We have steadily adhered to our Government, regardless of the effect upon the status of the negro. We have opposed incorporating the negro as a national element of strife. Shall we now permit the negro to stand between us and our Government? If of any value, the negro is certainly of less value now than when we refused to accept him as an issue. Will we not by refusing, upon some reasonable terms, to accept the proposed amendment, permit the negro to interpose between us and our Government? We are not to blame for such an issue, for we ever opposed it; but will we not have cause to reproach ourselves, if, at this late period of our struggle, we accept such an issue? These questions are suggestive, and I will not elaborate them.

But what have we a right, under all the circumstances, to demand as just and reasonable, if we accept the proposed amendment?

Our slave property was assessed for taxation in 1860, before the war began, at $107,491,527. In 1863, the effect of the rebellion and unfriendly legislation reduced the valuation to $57,511,770; and in 1864 to $34,179,246.

In view of the sufferings of our people, the loyal stand ever maintained by our State, our losses by the rebellion, and indirect action of our Government pending our struggle to maintain our national life, may we not, with confidence, demand, as a condition of our acceptance of the proposed amendment, that Congress shall appropriate the last assessed value of slaves—$34,179,246—to the use of the States, to be used in compensating their owners for the slaves so emancipated? England, in the act of 1833, abolishing slavery, appropriated £20,000,000 to compensate the owners. It cannot be that our Government will be less just, if we accept the amendment upon condition that the assessed value of 1864 be paid to the State to compensate owners who are to be effected by the proposed amendment; the acceptance be declared when notice of the appropriation is officially given to the Chief Executive of the Commonwealth. Those who believe that the adoption of this amendment will have the effect to shorten our struggle with rebellion cannot refuse to vote the appropriation, as it will, upon their own theory, be economical. Those who hold to our views cannot refuse it, because it is just and right.

The past is beyond our control: the present only is ours; but, by wise and prudent councils, the future may be shaped by us. Deprived of all control over the past, shall we cheat ourselves of the future by inconsiderately or rashly throwing away the present opportunity to shape our destiny?

The good of our own people—security to them of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—should be our chief and great concern, in acting upon this momentous question. To refuse present benefit and imperil future security, because of disapprobation of the past, is not the wisdom of the safe and prudent statesman. If we could defeat the final adoption of the proposed amendment by our refusal to ratify it, the policy or impolicy of so doing would then be a legitimate question of debate. But whether we ratify or not, the end must come; it is a fixed fact; slavery must end. Shall we accept the fact, although we had no hand in bringing it about, or shall we close our eyes to its existence? Though we may close our eyes to the fact, yet it will still remain, and will affect us as materially as if we looked upon and accepted it.

By refusing the conditional acceptance suggested, will you not greatly endanger the quiet and security of our people, and subject them to untold harassments by protracting the issue, without the possibility of gaining anything thereby? Will you not risk the loss of all against nothing to be gained? Better accept it unconditionally than to reject it altogether. The prudent farmer, after the storm has swept over his orchard and torn a branch from a favorite tree, leaving it attached by only a few shattered fibres, will cut off the branch and cast it away, that it may not draw the sap which would go to heal the wound to feed for a season the sickly life of the torn branch, then carry back its decay to the parent trunk. Shall we be less wise? Would he be counsel wise or prudent who, having an arm shattered by a bushwhacker, and pronounced by the surgeon to be incurable save by amputation, yet would obstinately refuse amputation, solely upon the ground that he was not shot in open battle or fair fight? Would such refusal change the character of the wound, or lessen the danger of mortification and death? Shall we refuse to have the shattered limb of slavery amputated, when none can think of saving it, merely because it has been destroyed by rebels and abolitionists combined?

As you love our country, and would save our suffering people from evils which no pen can adequately trace, I beseech you to lay aside all passion, prejudice, and partisan asperities, and meet this gravest and most vital question to the present and future of our State, which you may ever be called upon to solve, like statesmen and patriots who comprehend the crisis, and dare to meet the responsibilities of the occasion. If not willing to act without first consulting your constituents, better take time to consult them, and then act, than postpone this question to the future. Such are the convictions which, deeply impressed upon my mind, are freely and frankly stated for your consideration.

THOS. E. BRAMLETTE,
Governor of Kentucky.

☞The telegraphic despatch dated 5th instant, announcing that the Potomac army is once more in motion, is well calculated to excite the deepest feeling throughout the country. It appears that on the 5th instant an important skirmish occurred at Thatcher's Run, which is about twelve miles southeast of Petersburg. The fight resulted in a Union victory, though the rebels fought with great spirit and bravery. Rebel wagon trains were captured, and a considerable number of prisoners taken. It is probable that a general engagement is near at hand, if not now in progress, between Grant and Lee. If so, we may regard the co-operative campaigns of Grant and Sherman as fully begun, and events of the highest importance as about to occur. We believe that Lee has sent heavy reinforcements to Hardee in South Carolina, believing that the inactivity of Grant would enable him to do so with safety. Grant, however, has been awaiting only the progress of Sherman from Savannah. He is improving his opportunity, and, if we rightly construe the present indications, the Potomac army and that under General Sherman are on the eve of the most important battles of the war. We anxiously await further intelligence.

☞We regret to learn that members of the Legislature have construed our articles urging the importance of vigorous efforts to raise a military organization for State defence into a rebuke of themselves. We have not meant to unjustly rebuke our representatives, for we are aware that they, in connection with our distinguished and patriotic Governor, have labored assiduously to discharge their duty in reference to this matter. Now that the order of General Burbridge has been rescinded, we would again impress our people with the importance of co-operating with our representatives in this great work. Let an effective organization be promptly raised, that our State may be rid of the murderous bands now infesting its borders. There are able-bodied men all over the State who should rally to the cause.

☞The idea of nationality is deepening and daily strengthening in the popular mind of this country. The theories of local sovereignty, so long carried to an extravagant extent, are losing their hold upon public favor, and the essential importance of national unity and integrity is supplanting them. The fact that we are one people and have a common interest is now the grand lever of popular action. It strengthens the States' combination in support of the National Government; it impels the irresistible progress of our armies; it is the basis of every enlivening hope of future power and glory to the country.

BARRACKS NEWS.—One hundred and twenty convalescents were received at Barracks No. 1 yesterday, one hundred and forty-six came in from Camp Butler, Illinois, and five deserters from Cairo.

The transfers were one hundred and five to Nashville, twenty-five to Cairo, ten to Lexington, seven to Madison, Wisconsin, eight to St. Louis, and eight to Lebanon, Kentucky.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1865.

☞We publish this morning a communication from our correspondent, "Pro Bono Publico," on the "Agricultural College and Kentucky University," to which we would call the attention of our State Legislature. There is a bill on this subject now before the Legislature, which will be acted upon to-day, and this communication is presented in timely connection with it.

☞A bill has been introduced into the Legislature providing for an appropriation of fifteen thousand dollars to the Kentucky Sanitary Commission. The bill will be under consideration to-day or to-morrow. We freely express the hope that the bill will be enacted. The Sanitary Commission has performed a great work for the benefit not only of Kentucky soldiers, but for the sick and wounded of other States, and funds are needed to carry on the laudable and Christian enterprise. The Commission has thus far depended alone upon public contributions.

☞The telegraph reports that a rumor prevails that the rebels are preparing to evacuate Richmond. We do not think that any reliance can be placed in the report. The Confederates will not abandon their capital without a severe struggle. The movements of Sherman and Grant are threatening and perhaps dangerous to the rebel cause, yet we do not believe that Lee is filled with so much alarm as to entertain a thought so absurd as the quiet evacuation of Richmond and the surrender of the city without a show of fight. The fortifications have been constructed with too much care and at too great an expense to be abandoned now—in the hour of danger—without resistance. Branchville, Augusta, and Petersburg may fall, and a wall of Federal bayonets encircle the stronghold, yet the rebel army will remain defiant within the fortifications of Richmond, and stubbornly defend their capital to the last. The Confederates cannot afford to surrender the city. It gives too much prestige to their cause abroad. Richmond has become closely identified with the rebellion, and in the eyes of foreigners the belligerent States are and will be regarded in the light of a Government so long as they successfully defend their capital against the armies of the North. Each year since the commencement of the war, we have heard, we know not how many times, that the rebels were preparing to evacuate Richmond. The report has been repeated so often that we now look upon it as an old story, often told. Richmond eventually will fall, but the stars and stripes, in our opinion, will not wave over the city until the rebel army massed under Lee has been crushed. Richmond is their all, and to preserve it the rebels will fight within its fortifications, if required, the last desperate battle of the war.

☞We clip the following from the New Orleans Times of January 31st:

We have undoubted information by a refugee from Mobile, who left that city on the 16th inst., and arrived here yesterday, that the evacuation of the place commenced on the day of his departure, and that guns and ordnance stores were going to Selma by rail and water.

Simultaneously with this movement, a sweeping conscription was going on among the citizens of Mobile, to escape which people were fleeing from the city by squads. Our informant was one of a party of twelve persons who were fortunate enough to escape to a point whence they were taken off by boats from one of our war vessels.

It was the general impression in Mobile that no defence of the city would be attempted. Its garrison was small, and composed of militia alone, under the command of Generals Taylor and Maury.

Mobile, if not already surrendered, is destined to fall. The troops in General Canby's department have been concentrated for some important movement. Memphis, Vicksburg, New Orleans, and other military points, have been nearly stripped of soldiers to participate in a new, active, and stirring campaign. General Davidson's cavalry raid through Southern Mississippi, several weeks ago, demonstrated the fact that the country could be penetrated with apparent ease, and railroad communication be destroyed north of Mobile. His raid created great alarm among the people and disturbed their feelings of security. Gen. Canby determined to profit by the knowledge acquired in that expedition. A grand concentration of forces under his command has taken place, and a bold and vigorous campaign has been inaugurated. The details of his operations have not been furnished to the public, therefore we know but little in regard to his movements. It is probable that one column is advancing from the vicinity of Vicksburg, while another moves forward from the new base established at Paskagoula. We do not know there to be facts—we simply say such a programme is possible. There is one thing evident, our troops are advancing in strong force, and great alarm prevails in Mobile and in Southern Mississippi and Alabama. The stories of refugees should be received with extreme caution, yet we see nothing improbable in the statements furnished by the gentleman escaped from Mobile. When the forts which guarded the entrance to the bay were captured by Admiral Farragut the city was robbed of much of its importance. It ceased to be a port of entry for blockade-runners, and, cut off from the waters of the gulf and almost isolated, it became no longer a vital point to the Confederacy. The rebels, however, cannot surrender the city without regret, and they cannot abandon more important positions to defend the place against the powerful army now advancing upon it. We believe that the city is destined to fall, if already a conquered people do not acknowledge the supremacy of the Federal flag. It is stated that the evacuation commenced on the 16th of January. The rebels on that day commenced moving the heavy guns and the ordnance stores to Selma, as it was presumed, to prepare for the departure of the troops. A sweeping conscription of the citizens was going on, and the city was wild with excitement. In order to escape military service, the able-bodied males were flying to the country in squads. If the rebels celebrated their departure from the place in a manner so unacceptable to the citizens, it is probable that the "Yankees" found, or will find, a warmer welcome than was anticipated. Selma, the point to which the rebels are retreating, is the county seat of Dallas county, Alabama, and situated on the right bank of the Alabama river, about one hundred miles from its mouth. Heretofore communication has been preserved between Mobile and Selma by railroad and by water. When Mobile is surrendered to the Federal army, in Southern Alabama, the rebels can offer no successful resistance away from Selma. A large tract of country, then, will have to be abandoned by them. With General Thomas in Northern and General Canby in Southern Alabama, the rebels hold but a narrow strip of the State, and we may look upon it as nearly restored to the Union.

☞We are informed by a special despatch from Washington that Major-General John M. Palmer has been appointed to command in Kentucky. General Palmer formerly commanded a corps in the Army of the Cumberland, and achieved a fine reputation as an officer. As the successor of General Burbridge we trust he will prove as efficient in discharging the new and serious responsibilities intrusted to him, as he has been in other fields of labor. We cordially welcome him to Kentucky. The General is a native of this State, and was appointed from Illinois. The interests of Kentucky and Illinois are very closely identified in this great struggle, and we shall expect General Palmer to exercise here the same wise discretion which he would certainly exert in behalf of his own State. We firmly believe he will do so. Differences of an unpleasant character have separated our State officers from the predecessor of General Palmer. Those differences will no longer disturb the welfare of our Commonwealth. The appointment of General Palmer brightens the prospect of Kentucky.

☞Quite an interesting controversy is soon to arise in the Senate of the United States, relative to the admission into that body of Senators from the State of Virginia. The State organization of West Virginia has already been recognized by Congress, and both Representatives and Senators therefrom have been admitted into the body. Hon. Joseph Segar has just presented his credentials as Senator from Virginia proper, and his case will be a subject of controversy. The "Old Dominion" is ostensibly divided now into three States: the government of one being at Wheeling, the other at Alexandria, and the third at Richmond, under rebel authority. Congress has power to determine the qualifications of its own members, and we shall watch, with some curiosity, the disposal now to be made of the Hon. Joseph Segar's credentials.

☞Stephens and Hunter and Campbell, the rebel commissioners recently engaged in consultation with President Lincoln and Secretary Seward at Fortress Monroe, have returned to Richmond, and their arrival is the occasion for a number of furious war articles in the rebel papers. President Lincoln's requirement of submission by the South to the national authority is treated as an insult, and thereupon the greatest defiance is expressed and flaming appeals are made for renewed exertions in carrying on the war for independence. These things are just what we expected. The rebellion is not over yet. Desperate efforts are still to be made to resuscitate its enfeebled energy. The slaves are to be put in the army—a hundred thousand of them—according to latest intelligence from Richmond. The war is to be prosecuted with all the vigor that can possibly be summoned for the emergency. Such is the spirit now manifested by the press at Richmond.

The loyal States must arouse to the demands of the hour. Our armies must be reinforced. A mighty work yet remains upon the hands of Grant and Sherman and Thomas. We have implicit faith in them. They need only the earnest, determined co-operation of the loyal States in sending forward recruits, to be enabled triumphantly to consummate their present campaigns. The fate of the nation hinges on these campaigns. They are already begun. Sherman is moving through the Carolinas with a powerful force, and thus far success has marked his every step. The thunder of artillery is heard, too, from the vicinity of Petersburg—the shout of victory follows it. Let these movements be invigorated by demonstrations of an enthusiastic war spirit throughout the nation. Let the expressions of defiance uttered at Richmond be answered by ample preparations to sustain the gallant armies of the Union.

☞We are informed that a general exchange of prisoners of war is to take place. The rebel and Federal commissioners have come to an understanding and settled upon a mode of proceeding. We know not what terms have been agreed upon, or what points of difference have been waived, yet we are sure that the news will produce a thrill of pleasure throughout the land. A nation will hail the announcement as glad tidings of great joy. And to our poor, suffering, half-starved soldiers in crowded rebel prisons the intelligence will prove happiness unspeakable, and call from them acclamations of delight. The dark clouds are fading, a gleam of golden sunshine shoots athwart the sky, and the weary, sorrowing hearts beat light with hope. The longings to again breathe the pure, free air of heaven, and greet once more the loved forms of home, are about to be realized. Day succeeds the long night of suffering, despair, and woe, and the joyful news, like the rising sun, dispels the heavy gloom. Boats have been chartered to run regularly between Annapolis and Aiken's Landing, on the James river, the point at which the exchange is to take place. The officers intrusted with the duty will enter upon the work without delay; yet, so large is the number of soldiers held as prisoners of war, that it will require many weeks to complete the undertaking. We are truly glad that the authorities have at last come to an understanding. We sincerely hope that no new difficulty may arise to interrupt the good work, and prevent the carrying out of the plan now being inaugurated.

☞Very elaborate stories have been circulated by the press relative to the cession by Maximilian of five provinces of Mexico to Louis Napoleon, and the establishment of ex-Senator Gwin as Viceroy over the same. We were induced to believe that the fugitive ex-Senator had entered fully upon one of the most brilliant schemes of empire, sustained in his purposes by the astute genius of the French Emperor. It will be seen, however, from a despatch from Havana, by way of New York, published in our columns this morning, that the interesting stories to which the American press gave currency have become exceedingly improbable. These stories are represented as being the source of amusement in Havana, where ex-Senator Gwin now is, and whence he is soon to depart for Europe. He has failed with Maximilian. We have not been inclined to credit, as many others did, the statements made as to Gwin's new Dukedom. They promised too much to be true. If the news from Havana be reliable, we are not apt to hear much more about the young Republic of Sonora.

☞It would be but an act of simple justice if the Federal Congress should appropriate the sum of $34,179,246, the present estimated value of slave property in Kentucky, to be distributed among the slaveholders of this State in the event of our Legislature accepting the anti-slavery amendment to the Constitution. This suggestion is made by Gov. Bramlette in his special message transmitting the amendment to the Legislature. Kentucky has already endured a severe trial in consequence of this unnatural war. Her losses have been great. She has manfully stood by the Government against rebellion. The step of emancipation will necessarily be attended by difficulties, and the General Government, in consideration of these difficulties, should cheerfully appropriate the sum covering the present valuation of slave property in the State. We hope that Gov. Bramlette's proposition will be accepted by Congress.

BARRACKS NEWS.—Ninety men and twenty deserters were received at the Barracks yesterday from St. Louis, two deserters from Bowling Green, and four from Lexington. The number of convalescents amounted to fifty. The transfers were two hundred and thirty-four to Nashville, twenty-nine to Lexington, sixty-seven men and eight deserters to New York, thirty-nine men and three deserters to Annapolis, fifty-five men to Cairo, and fifteen to St. Louis.

☞Colonel A. A. Stevens, commanding Camp Morton, has received orders to prepare the muster-rolls of three thousand of the rebel prisoners confined there for exchange for a corresponding number of our brave Union soldiers.

☞Major-General Palmer has been appointed to command in Kentucky. Thank God and Mr. Lincoln!

[For the Louisville Journal.]

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AND KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY.

The House of Representatives of the Kentucky Legislature, in Frankfort, passed a bill on the 7th inst., for an Agricultural College, by a vote of 61 for and 19 against, showing a very large majority in favor of the bill. This is one of the most important measures which has been before the Legislature this session. We have had the pleasure of an extended interview with the chairman of the committee who reported the bill, and from him we learn that the State has done the very best thing possible in passing this law.

The bill provides that the State shall have exclusive control of the money to be derived from the Congressional Land Grant; the State to appoint a committee of visitors, who shall see that the Kentucky University is complying at all times with the act of Congress and the law of the State; the University to teach three hundred young men of the State, free of charge; to furnish grounds and buildings, library, apparatus, chemical, philosophical, astronomical, mechanical, &c., &c., without charge to the State.

Section four of the bill provides that nothing *sectarian* shall ever be taught the pupils, and that a majority of the Professors and managers shall never be members of any *one denomination* at the same time. This is the guard which a wise Legislature throws around free or if you prefer, sacred fund, and must silence forever the clamor of sectarian intruders and bigoted fault-finders. The interest arising from the land-grant fund to be paid semi-annually to the treasurer of Kentucky University, and by him disbursed to the Professors on their salaries.

At the present time, it is impossible for the State to provide University buildings and grounds. Kentucky University proposes to do this. Transylvania University has agreed to turn over to Kentucky University all its grounds, buildings, library, apparatus, and endowment fund, &c., and this, with the interest from the land grant, enables Kentucky University to accept from the State the trust, and enter forthwith upon the great work of educating three hundred young men for the State free of any charge for tuition. The State has had no offer of aid from any other institution, and unless something is speedily done the State will lose the Congressional Land Grant. Kentucky University, with her $200,000 endowment fund, now bearing interest, with $150,000 furnished by Transylvania, will be amply able to carry out *for* the State of Kentucky, without the cost of one dollar *to* the State, all the trusts committed by Congress to her.

The bill passed the House; has been reported to the Senate, and will come up to-day for consideration by that body. We trust it will meet with as much favor there as it did in the House. We cannot see on what grounds opposition can be made.

While war is desolating much of our country, let us not forget to foster our institutions of learning. A bright future, we trust, yet awaits us, when swords shall be beaten into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks, when peace shall fold her white wings once more over our land. PRO BONO PUBLICO.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1865.

PEACE AND WAR.—The country has certainly derived one important advantage from the recent consultation at Fortress Monroe, between President Lincoln and Secretary Seward, and the rebel commissioners Stephens, Hunter, and Campbell. It had been urged persistingly by the leaders of the peace party in the North that a personal conference between authoritative representatives of the Federal and rebel Governments would surely end in an adjustment of this struggle, and the restoration of the Union, without further bloodshed. The conference at last has been held, but the hopes of early peace have received no encouragement from it. When President Lincoln and Secretary Seward proposed peace on the basis of a restored nationality, the rebel commissioners dissented and demanded recognition of Confederate independence. As a matter of course the consultation ended in the renewed determination of the President to carry on the war until peace shall be conquered, and the supremacy of National authority be fully reasserted. The American Union, said Mr. Lincoln, must and shall be preserved; and that sentiment is echoed throughout the loyal States.

The important advantage which the country has derived from the late conference is found in the rapid concentration of all parties in the loyal States upon the absorbing proposition that *peace must come through war*. The issue of this struggle has been clearly and unmistakably defined. There must be war or national dismemberment. When, several days ago, the result of the peace consultation was announced in the Federal Congress, Hon. Samuel S. Cox, a leading Democrat and a *quasi* peace advocate, immediately offered a resolution in the House of Representatives, tendering the thanks of that body to President Lincoln and Secretary Seward for the prompt and decisive answer given by them to the rebel commissioners, and declaring the purpose of the Government to prosecute the war, regardless of costs, until its authority shall be re-established throughout the insurgent States. The resolution of Mr. Cox, coming, as it did, from a formidable antagonist of the present Administration, must exert a powerful influence upon the Democratic masses in all the loyal States. Simultaneously with the resolution of Mr. Cox, Hon. Fernando Wood, of New York, who is only next to Vallandigham as a leader of the peace party, introduced into the House the following resolution:

Resolved, That it is the duty of the President to maintain, in every constitutional and legal manner, the integrity of the American Union as formed by

side, and with the resolve of our people, he doubted not that victory would yet crown our cause.

In his correspondence with Lincoln that functionary had always spoken of the United States and Confederacy as our afflicted country, but in his replies he (Davis) never failed to refer to them as separate and distinct governments, and, sooner than we should ever unite again, he would be willing to yield up everything he had on earth, and if it were possible he would sacrifice a thousand of his lives ere he would succumb.

He concluded by exhorting those at home who are able to bear arms to unite with those ready in the army in repelling the foe, believing thereby we could compel the Yankees, ere less than twelve months to petition us for peace on our own terms.

A long series of resolutions were adopted, of which the following is a sample:

Resolved, That we spurn with the indignation due to so gross an insult the terms in which the President of the United States has offered peace to the people of the Confederate States.

Resolved, That the circumstances under which it was made add to the outrage, and show it as a designed and premeditated indignity to our people.

Resolved, That in the presence and in the face of the world, invoking the aid of Almighty God, we renew our resolves to maintain our rights and independence, and thus mutually pledge ourselves, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

Vice-President Stephens was called, but did not respond.

WASHINGTON, Feb 8

Richmond papers of Monday, February 6th, have received here to night. They contain no news of importance of a military character. The return of Stephens, Hunter, and Campbell is announced.

The Sentinel says that the mission was without any result; that Lincoln and Seward proposed the abolition of slavery and reunion as basis of peace, which it declares was an insult to the South. It then goes on in a defiant tone, calling upon the people to fight for independence.

Colonel Mulford, commissioner for the exchange of prisoners, was before the House Military Committee to-day. He stated that an arrangement had been effected between Grant and the rebel Commissioner Ould, for a complete exchange of officer for officer and man for man, of all prisoners on both sides. Most of the prisoners, Colonel Mulford says, are in North and South Carolina. Three thousand a week can be exchanged.

Richmond papers of yesterday announce that General Sherman was within nine miles of Nashville, on Sunday, and that it was the union of the rebel military authorities that that important railroad junction could not be held.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.

The two Houses of Congress met in the hall of the House of Representatives this noon, and as Vice-President elect Stephens opened the certificates of election for President and Vice-President of the United States. Mr. Lincoln was declared elected President and Mr. Johnson Vice-President.

NEW YORK, Feb. 9.

The Richmond Enquirer of the 6th says: Subjugation, abolition, and reconstruction were the only terms that could be got from Lincoln and Seward by their peace commissioners. Hence the South has only to fight.

It says this result will have the effect to unite the people more closely and strongly than ever. Subjugated and destroyed, those who survive it will have nothing worse to submit to than is now demanded by the enemy.

The Sentinel says the South has been insulted. It regards the constitutional amendment as an outrage and destruction of the social institutions of the South.

Lincoln's propositions were, that the South would lay down their arms, and dispose of their homes, and he would appoint for the Confederate States Marshals, District Attorneys, and Judges for the United States courts; that, in executing the confiscation law, he would do it leniently as possible; that he would meet neither with the Confederate States nor their States separately; that he will listen to nothing short of unconditional submission to the Constitution and amendments passed under it; that the slavery question was disposed of and is not now to be discussed.

Gov. Smith, of Virginia, calls a meeting to respond to Lincoln's answer to the rebel commissioners. The Sentinel endorses the call, and says, let us put our heel on Lincoln's insolent pride and return defiance to his measures.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.

The Richmond Whig of the 7th says: The following documents were laid before Congress this morning:

The Senate and House of Representatives of the Confederate States of America:

We have recently received a written notification which satisfied me that the President of the United States was disposed to confer informally with any unofficial agents that might be sent by us with a view to the restoration of peace. Messrs. Hon. A. H. Stephens, Hon. R. M. Hunter, and Hon. J. A. Campbell to proceed through our lines to hold a conference with Mr. Lincoln, or such persons as he might depute to present him. I herewith submit for the information of Congress the report of the eminent citizens above named, showing that the enemy refuses to enter into negotiations with the Confederate States of America, or any one of them separately, or give our people any other terms than a guarantee than those which a conqueror may grant, or permit us to have peace on any other terms than our unconditional surrender of the ordinance, upon which we seceded from the Union of the rebel military authorities that adopted the Congress of the United States

JEFF DAVIS.

RICHMOND, Feb. 5, 1865.

To the President of the Confederate States of America:

Under your letter of appointment of the 28th ult. we proceeded to seek an informal conference with Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, upon the subject mentioned in your letter. The conference was granted and took place on the 30th ult. on board a steamer anchored in Hampton Roads, where we met President Lincoln and the Hon. W. H. Seward, Secretary of State of the United States. It continued for several hours and was both full and free. We learned from them that the message of President Lincoln to the Congress of the United States in December last explained fully and distinctly his sentiments as to the terms, conditions, and method of proceeding by which peace can be had, to the people, and were informed that they would not be modified or altered to obtain that end. We understood from him that no terms or proposals of any kind or agreement looking to an ultimate settlement would be entertained by him with the authorities of the Confederate States, because we would be recognition of their existence as a power, which, under no circumstances would he use, and, for the like reason, that no terms could be entertained by him from the States separately. No extended truce or armistice at present would be granted or allowed without satisfactory assurance in advance of the complete restoration of the authority of the Constitution and laws of the United States over all places within the States of the Confederate States of America; that whatever consequences might result from the re-establishment of that authority must be accepted, but that individuals subject to the pains and penalties under the laws of the United States might rely upon the liberal use of the power confided to him to remit those pains and penalties if peace followed. During the conference, the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States, adopted by Congress on the 31st ult. was brought to our notice. This amendment provides that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except for crime, should exist within their jurisdiction, and that Congress should have power to enforce this amendment by appropriate legislation. Of all the conferences mentioned, and leading to the conference herein, we have heretofore been informed.

Respectfully, your obedient servants,

A. H. STEPHENS,
R. M. HUNTER,
JOHN A. CAMPBELL.

Savannah, Jan. 6.—The enemy yesterday advanced in heavy force down the Vaughan road and forced our pickets at that point. They also crossed Armstrong's Mill, and crossing above, occupying both points with infantry while their cavalry swept around our force and advanced on Wheldie Court house. Gen. W. H. Lee met the advance there, and, after a sharp engagement, drove them back. At the same time there was made demonstrations at other points on our right, but were repulsed. The enemy's cavalry have retired beyond Thatcher's Run. There was no heavy infantry fighting. The enemy extended, but did not advance their line with the object of taking in more woodland. We captured a few and lost some prisoners. We also lost some forage wagons.

It is reported that the enemy are raiding through the country on Brunswick. No news received at the War Department last night from South Carolina. It was currently reported, however, that Sherman's army had made a raid on the railroad between Branchville and Augusta. The only fact confirmatory of report is the interruption of telegraphic communication with Augusta. Yesterday Gen. Beauregard had arrived in Augusta and made a speech to the people. Gen. Beauregard also made a speech after Gen. Hood. He reviewed his military career from the firing of the fort at Sumpter to the present time, and he told them to know that he intends to fight to the bitter end, and, if he failed, he could pay a visit to some foreign country.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.

To the Honorable House of Representatives:

In response to your resolution of the 8th inst., asking information in relation to the conference recently held in Hampton Roads, I have the honor to state that on the day of date I received from Mr. F. P. Blair a card written as follows:

"Show the bearer, Mr. F. P. Blair, sr., to our lines to go south and return.

(Signed) A. LINCOLN."

At the time I was informed that Mr. B. had a card as a means of getting to Richmond, but he was given no authority to act for the Government, nor was I informed of anything he would say or do on his excursion, or otherwise. Mr. Blair told me he had been to Richmond and had seen Davis, and he (Mr. Blair) at the same time gave me manuscript letters as follows:

RICHMOND, VA., Jan. 20, 1865.

F. P. Blair, Esq.—Sir: I have deemed it proper and probably desirable to you, to give you this substance, the remarks made by me repeated by you to President Lincoln. I have no disposition to find obstacles in forms, and am willing now as heretofore to enter into negotiations for the restoration of peace. I am ready to send commissioners whenever I have reason to suppose they will be received, or to receive a commission of the United States. I shall see fit to send one notwithstanding the rejection of our former offers. I would, if you could promise that a commissioned minister or other agent should be received, appoint one immediately and renew the effort to enter into a conference with a view to secure peace to the two countries.

Yours, &c., JEFF DAVIS.

Afterwards, with the view that it should be shown to Davis, I wrote and delivered to Blair a letter, as follows:

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18, 1865.

F. P. Blair, Esq.:

SIR: You having shown Mr. Davis's letter to me on the 12th inst., you may say to him I have constantly been, aim now, and shall continue to be, ready to receive any agent whom he or any other influential person now resisting the National authority may informally send me with the view of securing peace to the people of our common country.

(Signed) A. LINCOLN.

Afterwards Mr. Blair dictated for and authorized me to make entry on the back of my copy of the letter last above recited, which is as follows:

January 28, 1865.—To day Mr. Blair tells me that on the 21st inst. he delivered to Mr. Davis the original, of which within is a copy, and left it with him; that at the time of delivery Davis read it over twice in Mr. Blair's presence, at the close of which he (Mr. Blair) remarked that the part about one common country related to part of Mr. Davis's letter about two countries, to which Davis replied that he so understood it.

(Signed) A. LINCOLN.

Here follows a number of telegrams relating to the mission of Stevens and Hunter into our lines, there having been some delay consequent on the absence of General Grant. The President then says: Afterwards, by my direction, the Secretary of War telegraphed to Gen. Ord as follows:

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON,
January 30, 1865, 10 A. M.

Major-General Ord, Headquarters Army of the James:

By direction of the President, you are instructed to inform the three gentlemen, Stephens, Hunter, and Campbell, that a messenger will be despatched to them at or near where they now are without unnecessary delay.

(Signed) E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

Afterwards I proposed and put into the hands of Major Thomas T. Eckert the following instructions and message:

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON,
January 30, 1865.

Major T. T. Eckert:

SIR: You will please proceed with the documents placed in your hands, and, on reaching Gen. Ord, you will deliver to him the letter addressed him by the Secretary of War. Then by Gen. Ord's assistance procure an interview with Stephens, Hunter, and Campbell, or any of them, deliver to him or them the papers on which your own letter is written. Note on the copy which you retain the time of delivery and to whom delivered. Receive their answer in writing, waiting a reasonable time for it, and, which, if it contains their decision to come through our lines without further conditions, it will be your warrant to ask Gen. Ord to pass them through as directed in the letter of the Secretary of War. If by their answer they decline to come, or propose other terms, do not have them passed through. And this being your whole duty, return and report to me.

Yours, truly, A. LINCOLN.

Messrs A. H. Stephens, J. A. Campbell, and R. M. T. Hunter—Gentlemen: I am instructed by the President of the United States to place this paper in your hands, with the information if you go through the United States military lines, it will be understood you do so for the purpose of an informal conference on the basis of that letter, a copy of which is on the reverse side of this sheet, and that if you choose to pass on such understanding, and so notify me in writing, I will procure the commanding General to pass you through the lines to Fortress Monroe, under such military precautions as he may deem prudent, at which place you will be met in due time by some person or persons for the purpose of an informal negotiation, and further, that you shall have protection and safe conduct and safe return in all events.

T. T. ECKERT, Major and A. D. C.

Afterward, but before Major Eckert had departed, the following despatch was received from Gen. Grant:

OFFICE OF THE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
WAR DEPARTMENT.

The following telegram was received at Washington January 31 from City Point, Va., dated 10:30 A. M., Jan. 31, 1865:

His Excellency Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States:

The following communication was received here last evening:

PETERSBURG, VA., Jan. 30, 1865.

Lieut.-General U. S. Grant, Commanding the Armies of the United States:

SIR: We desire to pass your lines under safe conduct, and to proceed to Washington to hold a conference with President Lincoln upon the subject of the existing war, and with a view of ascertaining upon what terms it may be terminated, in pursuance o' the course indicated by him in his letter to Mr. Blair of January, 1865; of which we presume you have a copy, and, if not, we wish to see you in person, if convenient, and to confer with you on the subject.

Very respectfully, yours,

A. H. STEPHENS,
J. A. CAMPBELL,
R. M. HUNTER.

I have sent directions to receive these gentlemen, and expect them at my headquarters this evening, waiting your instructions.

U. S. GRANT, Lieut.-General,
Commanding Armies of the U. S.

This, it will be perceived, transferred General Ord's agency in the matter to Gen. Grant. I resolved, however, to send Major Eckert forward with his message, and accordingly telegraphed Gen. Grant as follows:

EXECUTIVE MANSION, Jan. 31, 1865.

Lieut.-General Grant, City Point, Va.:

A messenger is coming to you on the business contained in your despatch. Detain the gentlemen in comfortable quarters until he arrives, and then act upon the message he brings, as far as applicable, it having been made up to pass them through Gen. Ord's lands, and when the gentlemen were supposed to be beyond our lines.

A. LINCOLN.

When Major Eckert departed he bore with him a letter of the Secretary of War to Gen. Grant, as follows:

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON.

To General Grant, Commanding, &c.:

GENERAL: The President desires that you will please procure for the bearer, Major T. T. Eckert, an interview with Messrs. Stephens, Hunter, and Campbell, and, if on his return to you, he requests to pass them through our lines to Fortress Monroe, by such route, and under such military precautions as you may deem prudent, giving them protection and comfortable quarters while there, and that you let none of this have any effect on your movements or plans.

By order of the President.

(Signed) E. M. STANTON, Sec'y of War.

Supposing the proper point to be then reached, I despatched the Secretary of State with the following instructions, Major Eckert, however, going ahead of him:

EXECUTIVE MANSION, Jan. 31 1865.

Hon. W. H. Seward, Secretary of State:

You will proceed to Fortress Monroe, there to meet and informally confer with Messrs. Stephens, Hunter, and Campbell on the basis of my letter to Mr. Blair of January 18 1865, a copy of which you have. You will make known to them that three things are indispensable: First, the restoration of the national authority throughout all the States. Second, no receding by the Executive of the United States on the slavery question from the position assumed thereon in the late annual message to Congress, and in the preceding documents. Third, no cessation of hostilities till the end of the war, and the disbanding of all the forces hostile to the Government. You will inform them that all propositions of theirs not inconsistent with the above, will be considered and passed upon in a spirit of sincere liberality. You will hear all they may choose to say, and report it to me. You will not assume to definitely consummate anything.

Yours, &c., A. LINCOLN.

On the day of its date, the following telegram was sent to Gen. Grant:

WAR DEPARTMENT, Feb. 1, 1865.

Lieutenant-General Grant, City Point:

Let nothing which is transpiring change or delay your military movements or plans.

(Signed) A. LINCOLN.

Afterwards the following despatch was received from Gen. Grant at the office of the United States Military Telegraph, Feb. 6, P. M.:

CITY POINT, VA., Feb. 6.

His Excellency, A. Lincoln, President of the United States:

Your despatch is received. There will be no armistice in consequence of the presence of Mr. Stephens or others within our lines. The troops are kept in readiness to move at the shortest notice it shall justify. U. S. GRANT,
Lieutenant-General.

To notify Major Eckert that the Secretary of State would be at Fortress Monroe, and to put them in communication, the following despatch was sent:

WAR DEPARTMENT, Feb. 6.

Major Eckert, City Point, Va.:

Call at Fortress Monroe and put yourself under the direction of Minister Seward, whom you will find there. (Signed) A. LINCOLN.

On the morning of the 2d inst., the following telegram was received by me:

CITY POINT, VA.—10 P. M., Feb. 1, 1865.

To His Excellency A. Lincoln, President of the United States:

I have the honor to report the delivery of your communication and my letter at 4.15 this afternoon, to which I received a reply at 6 P. M., but not satisfactory. At 8 P. M., the following note, addressed to Gen. Grant, was received:

CITY POINT, Feb. 1, 1865.

General Grant:

We are to go to Washington to confer informally with the President personally in reference to the matters mentioned in his letter to Mr. Blair, of the 18th of January, ultimo, without any personal compromise on any question in the letter. We have the permission to do so from the authorities in Richmond.

Very respectfully, yours,

A. H. STEPHENS,
R. M. HUNTER,
J. H. CAMPBELL.

At 9 P. M. I notified them that they could not proceed further unless they complied with the terms expressed in my letter. The point of meeting designated in the above note, would not, in my opinion, be insisted on. I think Fortress Monroe would be acceptable. Having complied with my instructions, I will return to Washington to-morrow, unless otherwise ordered. THOMAS T. ECKERT, Major, etc.

On reading this despatch of Major Eckert, I was about to recall him and the Secretary of State, when the following telegram of General Grant to the Secretary of War was shown me:

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
WAR DEPARTMENT.

The following telegram was received at Washington at 4.30 A. M., February 2:

CITY POINT, Feb. 1, 10.30 P. M.

Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War:

Now that the interview between Major Eckert, under his written instructions, and Mr. Stephens and party has ended, I will state confidentially, but not officially to become a matter of record, that I am convinced, upon conversation with Messrs. Stephens and Hunter, that their intentions are good and their desire sincere to restore peace and union. I have not felt myself at liberty to express even views of my own or to account for my reticence.

This has placed me in an awkward position, which I could have avoided by not seeing them in the first instance. I fear now that their going back without any expression to any one in authority will have a bad influence, but at the same time I recognize the difficulties in the way of receiving their informal commissioners. At this time I do not know what to recommend. I am sorry, however, that Mr. Lincoln cannot have an interview with the two gentlemen named in this despatch, if not all three, now within our lines. Their letter to me was all that the President's instructions contemplated to secure their safe conduct if they had used the same language to Major Eckert.

(Signed) U. S. GRANT, Lieut.-Gen.

This despatch of General Grant's changed my purpose, and accordingly I telegraphed to him and the Secretary of State as follows:

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON,
February 2, 1865.

Lieutenant-General Grant, City Point:

Say to the gentlemen that I will meet them personally at Fortress Monroe as soon as I can get there. A. LINCOLN.

Sent in cipher at 9 A. M.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON,
February 2, 1864.

To Hon. W. H. Seward, Fortress Monroe:

Induced by a despatch from General Grant, I will join you at Fortress Monroe as soon as I can come. A. LINCOLN.

Sent in cipher at 9 A. M.

Before starting, the following despatch was shown me. I proceeded, nevertheless:

OFFICE OF THE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
WAR DEPARTMENT.

The following telegram was received at Washington on February 2, 1865, from City Point, Va., 9 A. M., Feb. 2, 1865:

Hon. W. H. Seward, Secretary of State:

The gentlemen here have accepted the proposed terms, and will leave for Fortress Monroe at 9:30 A. M. U. S. GRANT.

On the night of the 2d, I reached Hampton Roads, and found the Secretary of State and Major Eckert on a steamer anchored off the shore, and learned that the Richmond gentlemen were on another steamer, also anchored off the shore in the Roads, and that the Secretary of State had not yet seen or communicated with them. I ascertained that Major Eckert had literally complied with his instructions, and I saw for the first time the answer of the Richmond gentlemen to him, which, in his despatch to me of the 1st inst., he characterized as not satisfactory. That answer is as follows:

CITY POINT, VA., Feb. 1, 1865.

T. T. Eckert, Major, &c.:

Your note, delivered by yourself this day, has been considered. In reply, we have to say that we were furnished with a copy of the letter of President Lincoln to F. P. Blair, of the 18th of January ult., another copy of which is appended to your note. Our intentions are contained in a letter, of which the following is a copy:

RICHMOND, Jan. 28, 1865.

In conformity with the letter of Mr. Lincoln, of which the foregoing is a copy, you are to proceed to Washington City for an informal conference with him upon the issues involved in the existing war, and for the purpose of securing peace to the two countries.

With great respect, your servant,

JEFF. DAVIS.

The substantial object to be obtained by the informal conference is to ascertain upon what terms the existing war can be terminated honorably. Our instructions contemplate a personal interview between President Lincoln and ourselves at Washington, but, with this explanation, we are ready to meet any person or persons that President Lincoln may appoint, at such place as he may designate. Our earnest desire is that a just and honorable peace may be agreed upon, and we are prepared to receive or submit propositions which may possibly lead to the attainment of that end.

Very respectfully,

A. H. STEPHENS,
R. M. HUNTER,
J. A. CAMPBELL.

A note of these gentlemen, subsequently addressed to Gen. Grant, has already been given in Major Eckert's despatch of the 1st. I also saw here, for the first time, the following note, addressed by the Richmond gentlemen to Major Eckert:

CITY POINT, VA., Feb. 2, 1865.

T. T. Eckert, Major and A. D. C.:

MAJOR: In reply to your verbal statement that your instructions did not allow you to alter the conditions upon which a passport could be given to the United States, we say we are willing to accept and proceed to Fortress Monroe, and there to have an informal conference with any person or persons that President Lincoln may appoint on the basis of his letter to F. P. Blair of the 18th of January, 1865, or upon any other terms or conditions that he may hereafter propose, not inconsistent with the essential principles of self-government and popular rights upon which our institutions are founded. It is our earnest wish to ascertain, after a free interchange of ideas and informal conference, what principles and terms an honorable peace can be established without the further effusion of blood, and to contribute our utmost efforts to accomplish such a result. We think it better to add that in accepting your passport we are not be understood as committing ourselves to anything but to an informal conference the feelings above expressed.

Very respectfully, yours,

A. H. STEPHENS,
R. M. HUNTER,
J. A. CAMPBELL.

NOTE.—The above communication was delivered to me at Fortress Monroe at 4:30 P. M., February 2, by Lieutenant-Colonel Babcock, of General Grant's staff. T. T. ECKERT,
Major, &c.

On the morning of the 3d, the three gentlemen Stephens, Hunter, and Campbell came aboard of our steamer and had an interview with the Secretary of State and myself of several hours' duration. No question of the preliminaries to the meeting was then to be made or mentioned. No other person was present. No papers were exchanged or produced, and it was in advance agreed that the conversation was to be informal and verbal merely on our part. The whole substance of the instructions to the Secretary of State hereinbefore mentioned was stated and insisted upon, and nothing was said inconsistent therewith; while, by the other party, it was said that in any event or on any condition they ever would consent to a reunion, and yet they equally omitted to declare that they would not so consent. They seemed to desire a postponement of that question and the adoption of some other course first, which, as none of them seemed to argue, might or might not lead to reunion, but which course we thought would amount to an indefinite postponement. The conference ended without result. The foregoing containing, as is believed, all the information sought. It is respectfully submitted.

(Signed) A. LINCOLN.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, Feb. 10.

The following was enclosed in the message sent to the Senate by the President and Secretary of State, to whom was referred a resolution of the Senate of the 8th inst., requesting the President, if in his opinion, it is not incompatible with the public interests, to furnish the Senate any information in his possession concerning the recent conversation or communication with certain rebels, said to have occurred under executive sanction, including communications with the rebel Jeff Davis, and any correspondence relating thereto, has the honor to report that the Senate may properly be referred to the special message of the President upon the subject of the resolution, and transmitted to the House this day. Appended to the report is a copy of the instructions which have been sent to Class F. Adams, Minister to England, which is the only correspondence found in this Department touching the subject referred to in the resolution. Respectfully submitted.

W. H. SEWARD, S. S.

WASHINGTON, Feb 10, 1865.

[MR. SEWARD TO MR. ADAMS.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.

SIR: It is a truism that, in times of peace, there are always instigators of war, and as soon as war begins there are citizens who emphatically demand negotiations of peace. The advocates of war, after an agitation longer or shorter, generally grow their fearful end, though the war declared is not unfrequently unnecessary and unwise; so peace agitators in time of war ultimately bring about an abandonment of the conflict, sometimes without securing the advantages which were originally expected from the conflict. The agitators for war in time of peace and for peace in time of war are not necessarily or perhaps ordinarily insincere in their purpose or motives. Results alone determine whether they are wise or unwise.

The treaty of peace concluded at Guadalupe Hidalgo was secured by an irregular negotiation under don of the Government. Some of the efforts which have been made to bring about negotiations with a view to end our civil war are known to the whole world, because they have employed foreign as well as domestic agents. Others with whom you have had to deal confidentially are known to yourself, although they have not publicly transpired. Other efforts have occurred here which are known only to the persons actually moving in them and to this Government. I am now to give for your information an account of an affair of some general character, which recently received much attention here, and which doubtless will excite inquiry abroad.

The Richmond party was brought down the James river in the United States steamer Transport. During the day the Transport was anchored in Hampton Roads. On the morning of the 3d, the President, attended by the Secretary, received Messrs. Stephens, Hunter, and Campbell from the steamer Transport on board the River Queen, in Hampton Roads. The conference was informal. There was no attendance of secretaries, clerks, or other witnesses, and nothing was written or read. The conversation was earnest, free, calm, courteous and kind on both sides.

The Richmond gentlemen approached the discussion rather indirectly, and at no time did they make any categorical demands, or lay down formal stipulations or absolute proposals. Nevertheless, during the conversation, which lasted four hours, the several points at issue between the Government and the insurgents were distinctly raised and discussed fully and in an amicable spirit. What the insurgent party seemed chiefly to favor was a postponement of the question of separation, upon which the war is waged, and a mutual direction of the efforts of the Government, as well as those of the insurgents, to some policy or scheme for a season, during which the passions might be expected to subside, the armies to be reduced, and intercourse between the people of both sections be renewed.

It was suggested that through such postponement we might have immediate peace, with some not very certain prospect of an ultimate satisfactory adjustment of the political relations between the Government and States, section or people, now engaged in war with it. The suggestion, though deliberately considered, was nevertheless regarded by the President as one of armistice or truce, and he announced that we can agree to no cessation of hostilities except on the basis of the disbandment of the rebel forces, and the restoration of the national authority throughout all the States collaterally, and in subordination to the proposition which was then announced.

A few days ago F. P. Blair, Esq., obtained from the President a simple leave to pass through our lines without definite views being known to the Government. Mr. B. visited Richmond, and, on his return, showed to the President a letter which Jeff Davis had written to Mr. Blair, in which Davis wrote to Mr. B. that he was at liberty to say to President Lincoln that Mr. Davis was not as he always had been willing to send commissioners if assured that they would be received or receive any that should be sent; that he was not disposed to find obstacles to be in forms; that he would send commissioners to confer with the President with a view to the restoration of peace between the two countries, if he could be assured that they would be received.

The President, therefore, on the 18th of January addressed a note to Mr. Blair, in which he, after acknowledging he had received the note of Mr. Davis, said: He was and always should be willing to receive any agents Mr. Davis or any other influential man now actually resisting the authority of the Government might send to confer with the President informally with the view to a restoration of peace to the people of our common country. Mr. Blair visited Richmond with this letter, and then again came back to Washington. On the 29th ult. we were advised from the camp of Gen. Grant that A. H. Stephens, R. M. Hunter, and J. A. Campbell were applying for leave to pass through our lines to Washington as peace commissioners to confer with the President. They were permitted by Gen. Grant to come to his headquarters to await there the decision of the President. Major Eckert was sent down to meet the party from Richmond at Gen. Grant's quarters.

The Major was instructed to deliver to them a copy of the President's letter to Mr. Blair, with a note to be addressed to them and signed by the Major, in which they were directly informed that if they should be allowed to pass our lines they would be understood as coming for an informal conference upon the basis of the foregoing letter of the 18th of January to Mr. Blair. If they should express their assent to this condition in writing, then Major Eckert was directed to give them safe conduct to Fortress Monroe, where a person coming from the President would meet them, it being thought probable, from the report of this conversation with Lieutenant-General Grant, that the Richmond party would in the manner prescribed accept the condition mentioned. The Secretary of State was charged by the President with the duty of representing this Government in the expected interview with the Confederates. The Secretary arrived at Fortress Monroe on the night of the 31st of February. Major Eckert met him on the morning of the 2d with the information that the persons who came from Richmond had not accepted in writing the condition upon which he was allowed to give them conduct to Fortress Monroe. The Major had given some information by telegraph to the President at Washington.

On receiving this information the President prepared a despatch directing the Secretary to return to Washington. The Secretary was preparing at the same moment to return without waiting for information from the President, but at this juncture Gen. Grant telegraphed to the Secretary of State that the Richmond gentlemen had reconsidered and accepted the conditions tendered them through Major Eckert, and Gen. Grant urgently advised the President to confer in person with the Richmond party. Under these circumstances the Secretary by the President's direction remained at Fortress Monroe, and the President joined him on the night of the 2d.

The anti-slavery policy was reviewed in all its bearings, and the President announced that he must not be expected to depart from the positions he had heretofore assumed in his proclamation of emancipation and other documents, as these positions were reiterated in his annual message. It was further declared by the President that the complete restoration of the National authority was an indispensable condition to any assent on our part in whatever form peace might be proposed. The President assured the other party that he must adhere to those positions he would be prepared so far as power is lodged with the Executive to exercise liberality; its power, however, is limited by the Constitution, and when peace should be made, Congress must necessarily act in regard to appropriations of money and admission of Representatives from the rebel States.

The Richmond party were informed that Congress had on the 31st adopted by a constitutional majority a resolution submitting to the States a proposition to abolish slavery throughout the Union, and that there is every reason to expect it will be accepted by three-fourths of the States, so as to become a part of the Constitution. The conference came to an end by mutual acquiescence, without producing an agreement.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

W. H. SEWARD.

NEW YORK, Feb. 11.

The Richmond Examiner abuses Mr. Lincoln and says: Mr. Seward has done us service. Before he undertook the high and holy purpose of peace-making to serve the low and mean ends of the people of States where a somewhat divided portion of them believed that the enemy would give them honorable terms of peace provided they agreed to reconstruct the Union, and, under this belief, there was a party which habited on negotiation.

The Enquirer says the original mission of Blair was to deceive Davis into sending commissioners, and then used the fact of sending commissioners to deceive the United States Congress into the adoption of the amendment abolishing slavery in all the States.

The Whig says if there is now remaining among the people any one so base as to desire union with Yankees, let him know that he cannot be admitted to Yankee association as an equal even with Yankees, but as a criminal and an outlaw who has forfeited every right, whose lands no longer belong to him, whose slaves are to be henceforth his masters, whose house is to be taken and occupied by some forlorn and miserable New England emigrant, and whose family is to be driven from their soil to make room for a race of conquerors. The Constitution as it is combined with the Union as it was means the suppression of State sovereignty and the eternal subordination of the South to the North, and the confiscation of Southern property to the mean benefit of Northern industry, or to pay the debt incurred in subjugation.

The Examiner says as soon as the result of the peace mission is properly announced, Stephens will go to Georgia and canvass that State for a vigorous prosecution of the war.

The Examiner has an editorial intended to heat the Southern blood. It says there is no cause for despair, and thinks the end of summer will see them completely successful.

The Mobile Advertiser and Register of the 20th ult. makes the remarkable confession that they do not attempt to disguise the fact that the Confederate cause is passing through its most dangerous crisis. A large number of people, perhaps a fair majority, are heartsick of war, and are willing to end it upon terms which would have been scouted as reasonable two years ago. A certain class of slaveholders, having the deepest interest in the struggle, are willing and ready to make sacrifices, which, a short time ago, would not have been tolerated.

We have no doubt that the country, including slave-owners, large and small, would compromise to-day for peace and independence on a basis for gradual and universal emancipation.

We may go further, and say that large numbers will be willing to give all their cherished thoughts of independence in exchange for naked peace upon terms of reconstruction. This great change is the wonderful revulsion of popular sentiment, resulting from four years of tremendous conflict.

NEW YORK, Feb. 11.

The Times's special announces a great cavalry campaign, consisting of an extraordinary movement through the cotton Gulf States, as about to take place. Generals Thomas and Wilson are to command the forces, which will be ample for the purpose.

Montgomery, Selma, and Mobile are to be attacked, and there will be co operation from Gen. Canby. The expedition will start about the middle of next week from Eastport.

The opening of the Alabama and Tombigbee rivers, and the occupation of Selma, Montgomery, and Mobile, will virtually complete our work in the cotton States of the Gulf.

Richmond papers of the 8th have the following:

Petersburg, Feb. 7.—There was heavy firing on our right yesterday and to-day, which resulted favorably to our arms.

During a reconnoissance made against Pegram beyond Thatcher's Run yesterday, the enemy attacked and forced his division back some distance. He was reinforced by General Gordon's division, when in turn the enemy was forced back a second time.

The enemy being reinforced by a corps, attacked and drove our men until the latter, being strengthened by Mahon's division, commanded by Finnigan, a grand charge by the 3d division was made, and the enemy's lines were broken. A running fight was kept up till dark, when the Yankees took shelter in their works at Hatcher's Run, from which they were not driven.

Gen. Pegram was killed. Many of the enemy were killed and wounded, and a few taken prisoners. Our loss is several hundred.

This morning the enemy advanced upon and charged our lines south of Burgess's Mill, but were handsomely repulsed by our forces in a charge upon the enemy.

General Sorrel of Georgia, was very painfully wounded. Heavy firing was heard late this afternoon in the same direction, but the cause was not ascertained.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1865.

☞The following are the orders issued from Headquarters District of Kentucky, by General Burbridge, in relation to State troops:

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY,
LEXINGTON, KY., Feb. 6, 1865.

General Orders, No. 5.

His Excellency, the President of the United States, as Commander-in-chief of the Army and Navy, having declared martial law in the Military District of Kentucky, the organizing, equipping, or maintaining of troops under State authority, is unlawful, and all troops so organized, equipped, or maintained, must at once be disbanded. Commanding officers of such troops, of every grade, will at once see that the arms in their hands are returned to the State Arsenal, or delivered to the nearest United States Quartermaster to be thus returned, and the troops disbanded.

By order of Brevet Maj.-Gen. S. G. BURBRIDGE.

[Signed] J. BATES DICKSON,
Captain and A. A. G.

Official—CHAS. A. GOULD, Capt. and A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY,
LEXINGTON, KY., Feb. 8, 1864.

General Orders, No. 6.

In compliance with instructions from the War Department, General Orders, No. 5, dated February 6, 1865, from these Headquarters, are hereby revoked.

By order of Brevet Maj.-Gen. BURBRIDGE.

[Signed] J. BATES DICKSON,
Captain and A. A. G.

Official—CHAS. A. GOULD, Capt and A. A. G.

It will be observed that Order No. 6 rescinds the previous Order, No. 5: in other words, the last issued cancels the first issued. The regulations heretofore existing in regard to State troops remain in force. The War Department approves of the policy of the Governor, and State organizations remain unaffected. We have deemed this explicit explanation necessary, as many persons, from the wording of Order No. 6, were at a loss to understand to what it referred.

☞Colonel Gilfillan, who commands the post at Gallatin, Tennessee, has been ferreting out and exposing the corruption which characterized the administration of the notorious General Payne, who formerly commanded the post, and we congratulate the citizens there upon having in their midst the authority of an officer who is so efficient and upright in the discharge of his duties. A Captain Hunter, who was a favorite of General Payne, has met with a formidable obstacle in Colonel Gilfillan, and we are informed by a stanch Union citizen of Gallatin that "he collects no more rents for the Government which the Government never heard of." We are always glad to commend a faithful soldier; we are equally ready to condemn malfeasance in office. We care nothing for persons while the welfare and integrity of the Government are at stake. This is the sentiment of Colonel Gilfillan.

NEW YORK, Feb. 11.

The Herald's correspondence from the Army of the Potomac, dated the 8th inst., at noon, says: The movement which has thus successfully been accomplished, may have other objects. It is doubtless true that one thing is certain—it will fully occupy the Army of Northern Virginia, and will prevent Gen. Lee from sending off troops to reinforce the armies opposed to Sherman's operations, and enable that gallant leader to carry out with ease the programme laid down for him.

The Herald's correspondent, writing from the 5th corps, says the results of the movement begin to manifest themselves. It is now clear they are greatly to our advantage, and that, in the successful lengthening of our line and fortifying in the progress, a decisive and brilliant victory has been gained.

Massed battalions of the enemy were hurled in vain against our advancing columns to prevent our establishing a permanent foothold here. This foothold has been gained. We are on a move further toward the suppression of the Southside Railroad. The rattling of cars on the track of the road and the shrill whistle of engines, can now be plainly heard. It is saying a great deal, but I do not think it is saying too much, that the entire rebel army in our front cannot drive us from our present position, and, furthermore, for them to withdraw any considerable force to aid in the defence of Charleston, would be extremely hazardous, now compared with what such withdrawal would have been before the present movement.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.

Gen. Grant was before the Committee on the Conduct of the War this morning. The following question was asked him:

It is stated, on what authority I do not know, that you are charged entirely with the exchange of prisoners.

Answer—That is correct. What is more, I have effected an arrangement for the exchange of prisoners, man for man and officer for officer, or the equivalent, according to the old cartel, until one or the other party has exhausted the number they now hold. I get a great many letters daily from the friends of the prisoners in the South, every one of which I cause to be answered, telling them that the arrangement has been made, and that I suppose exchanges will be made at the rate of 2,000 per week, and that, just as fast as they can deliver prisoners to us, I will receive them and deliver the prisoners to them.

The Salisbury prisoners will be coming right on. I, myself, saw Col. Hatcher, Assistant Commissioner of Exchange on the part of the South, and he told me that the Salisbury and Danville prisoners would be coming on at once. He said he could bring them at the rate of five or six thousand a week.

Question—There is no impediment in the way?

Answer—There is none on our side. I could deliver and receive every one of them in a very short time if they will deliver those they hold. We have lost two weeks lately on account of ice in the river.

Soon after the reading of this part of the testimony before the Committee on the Conduct of the War, Lieut.-General Grant came into the hall, accompanied by several friends. As soon as he was noticed, crowds gathered around him, to such an extent as to interfere with the order of business.

M

WEEKLY JOURNAL.

SPEECH OF GOVERNOR JACOBS.—The following speech was delivered by Lieutenant-Governor Jacobs on assuming his seat in the Kentucky Senate, on Saturday, February 4th:

SENATORS: It is but appropriate that one who was elected by nearly sixty thousand majority to the second position in this State, and who on military power was kidnapped and sent through the lines amongst a people that he had fought against, to say a few words upon entering again upon his duties.

What position had I occupied amongst you? Undoubtedly that of a Union man. In what way had I exhibited the sincerity of my opinions? By contending in the Legislature, and over almost every hill and vale in the State, that the Union and the Constitution must and should be preserved at all hazards; by raising troops; by fighting on many a hard-fought battle-field; by the shedding of my own blood, which consecrated my devotion to my country. What more proof do you need? Wherein have I erred? What crime have I committed? What State or national law have I violated? What charges have been made against me? None. Have I been confronted? No. Why not? Because they knew that I was innocent, and that not a shadow of a charge could be sustained. What was the character of my speeches? That the policy of the Administration was calculated to consolidate the rebellion and divide the loyal men of the country. What policy did I wish? That policy which, I sincerely believed, would consolidate the loyal men of the country and divide those in rebellion. I wished the whole power of the armies concentrated to overthrow those in arms, with an appeal to the patriotism of the people of the South, not to tear down the work of our fathers. The difference between the policy I supported and that of those who differed with me was this, they wanted to use only physical force, while I wanted not only physical force, but diplomacy and all other legitimate means that we could bring to bear. The masses of those who rebelled against the Government did it upon the belief that their rights were in danger. How could you dissipate that error? By proving that they were correct? or by disabusing their minds? The Southern people believed that their slave property was in danger by the election of a sectional President. How has the Administration disabused their minds? By emancipating all the slaves of those in rebellion, and not only that, but recklessly and in violation of the most solemn pledges, seizing with violent hands all the slaves in loyal States belonging to loyal men. It is as if you should say to a man that you do not intend to rob him by stealing all that he owns. But you are not an unconditional Union man because you let slave property stand in your way.

That is not true. I will give every vestige of my property, and shed the last drop of my blood, to preserve my country. Its not unconditional Unionism to submit to unconditional wrongs. It is not unconditional Unionism tamely to brook the Administration's arbitrary interference with the rights of property, the rights of personal liberty, the rights of free speech, and the rights of free suffrage. But it is unconditional servility which submits to every wrong, and the people who will submit to such violations of the constitution, and of all their great and sacred rights, without protesting against the wrong, and attempting by all lawful means to correct it, are fit only to be slaves. The Union is in danger; how are we to prevent its destruction? By striking down those who are defending it, the Union is in danger; are we to preserve it by imprisoning those who have shed their blood in its defence? by seizing the innocent citizens? by the seizure of property without law? by the violent and reckless use of power in defiance of law and the constitution? Are we to preserve it by permitting an absolutism to be erected upon the ruins of the constitution and of American rights and liberties? Are we to preserve it by sweeping away the freedom of thirty millions of people, and concentrating power in the hands of a few? No; so help me Almighty God, we will preserve not only this Union, but the life and the soul of it—the Constitution with all the great and inherent rights of American citizens treasured in it. There are three parties—Conservative, Radical, and Disunion. Conservatism would preserve not only the Union, but the Constitution. Radicalism pretends to fight for the Union, but lays violent hands upon the written laws of the country, and the personal rights of the citizen, in respect to life, liberty, and property. Disunionism strikes at the National life. It strikes at the life. Radicalism at not only the life, but the soul. Conservatism is unalterably and eternally opposed to both. The success of conservative principles will be life to the nation, because it will be the success of the Union and the Constitution. The success of either of the other two will be eternal, relentless anarchy and despotism, which will brood over the destinies of this country, crushing the rights and liberties of the people as relentlessly as the car of Juggernaut its victims. Because I hold to neither one or the other, I first had to fight one on the battle-field, and the other by facing slander, persecution, and exile. The latter, after kidnapping me, charges me with being a conspirator, and by exiling me, virtually charges me with being a rebel. If I were either one or the other, or both, why did they not try me, and, if guilty, condemn me? Because they knew both charges were groundless and false. If I were guilty of either or both, those who exiled me were guilty of a great dereliction of duty in not punishing me. They knew that I was guiltless; therefore, they did not confront me; they made no direct charges, they gave me no trial. My only crime was in defending free speech, a free press, free suffrage, and in not humbly bowing the knee to a few in power. My knee was not made by the Almighty to bend except only to Him. Never, never will it bend to man. No, Senators, if I had been a conspirator or a rebel, I would not be here. I would have resisted my arrest; my home would have been upon the battle-field; my ashes would have gleamed, and my pistol would have echoed in every conflict. I am no coward, no conspirator; what I am, I have boldly and openly, without fear, and, thank God, without reproach. I was guiltless, I demanded an unconditional release. I obtained it. I would have accepted none other. In being exiled, not only the right of the citizen was stricken down, but the dignity of my native State. Its second officer was kidnapped and without charges and without crime. As far as lay in my power, by refusing anything but an unconditional release, I have preserved my own dignity, and, what is far more important, the dignity and honor of my State. These were my duties. What are yours? Let not history, Senators, say that the Senate of Kentucky were reluctant to defend the right, maintain the honor of the State, and stand up against the wrong.

Here perhaps I should end, but I cannot forbear to touch upon the chief issues of the hour. In times like these it behooves every true citizen to stand up boldly for what he conceives to be the true interest of the country. One should blush at such times to permit a single selfish consideration to actuate his conduct. He should weigh deeply and anxiously, with his heart free from blemish before man and God, what is best, what will be best, for the honor and interests of our beloved country. When he has so matured his mind, let him look neither to the right nor to the left, but press on, right on, whether he "sink or swim," defend what he conceives to be the best interest of the country. We have our duties subject to written law, and to the will of our constituents. We have a written Constitution. It is our duty to obey that instrument until it is set aside in accordance with its own provisions. If we do otherwise, there is an end to written law, and republican institutions are a failure; we are at sea without rudder, and disaster will inevitably follow. Then we must subject ourselves to the will, interests, and rights of our constituents. We have undoubtedly the right to our individual opinions, and should maintain them, but we have no right as representatives of the people to thrust forward our individual opinions in defiance of the written law of the land, and in defiance of the rights, interests, and wishes of our constituents. But we have those opinions; what are we to do?—some will question. Submit always to the law of the land, altering that law constitutionally, if you think it wrong. But our conscidences will not permit me to obey either the law or the great mass of our constituents. Then your consciences ought to force you to resign, until the law and the people are changed to suit your views. With these premises, what right have we to abolish slavery in this State regardless of its constitution? Neither the present constitution nor the present desire of the people is in accordance with any such scheme, and I say it earnestly, but most respectfully, we should violate both law and the wishes of the people of the State if we should give effect to any such scheme. I care nothing for slavery—everything for law. If the majority of the people of the State choose to eradicate slavery in accordance with law, I, for one, will cordially acquiesce in that decision; but never against their will and wishes, and against law. Some say, But the greater number of the slaves are already freed by the strong arm of the Federal Government; we emancipate only a few. But you violate the law of your State, and the wishes of the great masses of the people. If the Federal Government has destroyed slavery by the strong arm, let it complete the destruction. I, for one, will not sanction its violation of law. If the Federal Government has the right by the strong arm to eradicate one species of property, it has the clear undoubted right to eradicate another species of property. Slavery, some cry, creates a continual disturbance, and ought to be eradicated. With equal force it might be said of the great national debt that we now have, and are accumulating daily, that it is a great burthen, creates want, and breeds dissatisfaction, therefore it ought to be abolished. You strike down, and undermine one species of property, and you equally strike at all other kinds.

A few words in regard to the proposed change in the Constitution of the Federal Government. I am opposed to it. Because such a change is contrary to the spirit of our system of government; because if ever made, it ought not to be made until all the States are represented in Congress; and because more than one-fourth of the States are not in their places in the Union, and consequently the change cannot be made constitutionally; but if made, must be brought about by fraud and force. It becomes also a wedge which divides us still more as a people, and makes it more difficult to settle our national troubles. This is really the crowning objection to the danger. Let us wait, let us not create new cause of strife and make that cause irascible, but as patriots pour oil upon the troubled waters and work with one heart to unite our divided country, that once we may become a prosperous and happy people. We have had many triumphs to the national arms, let us as a magnanimous, great nation offer these deluded people, "bone of bone and flesh and of our flesh," easy terms. Let us offer a general amnesty, an abrogation of the confiscation laws, and the Constitution as it is. I do not know that the offer would be accepted. It might result in an immediate peace. At all events it would strengthen the national cause.

Senators, unfortunately, the Union party of this State has been divided in twain. I will not say whose fault it is; history will decide that question. As your presiding officer, I will know no party in the chair, but will be guided in my decisions by equity and the law.

I thank you for your attention, and hope soon that our hearts may be gladdened by the joyful shout of victory, and that once more we may be a restored nation under one flag.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.

The Richmond Examiner, of the 3d, says:

"The enemy's present plan of campaign is obvious. He seeks to keep up the pressure upon Richmond, and to chain the Army of Northern Virginia to its breastworks. If, in addition, a favorable movement can be seized for rallying out upon the Danville road, and cutting that avenue of supplies, he will surely embrace the opportunity to effect so important a purpose.

"But his aggressive designs are chiefly directed against two important points in South Carolina—namely against Charleston, so long besieged, so prominent in the previous history of the war, so conspicuous in the politics of the South, and so cherished in the affections of the Confederate people, and Branchville, a mere geographical point, but important as being the key to Charleston and the gateway of supplies which come from the States of the Gulf.

"These being the conceded objects of the enemy's present operations, it is not difficult to determine with approximate certainty the destination of Thomas's army. If reports be true he is moving eastward.

"Not many days ago we had intelligence that a detachment of 15,000 men from his army had gone down the Mississippi river and we saw this, they wanted to use only physical force, while I wanted not only physical force, but diplomacy and all other legitimate means that we could bring to bear. The masses of those who rebelled against the Government did it upon the belief that their rights were in danger. How could you dissipate that error? By proving that they were correct? or by disabusing their minds? The Southern people believed that their slave property was in danger by the election of a sectional President. How has the Administration disabused their minds? By emancipating all the slaves of those in rebellion, and not only that, but recklessly and in violation of the most solemn pledges, seizing with violent hands all the slaves in loyal States belonging to loyal men. It is as if you should say to a man that you do not intend to rob him by stealing all that he owns. But you are not an unconditional Union man because you let slave property stand in your way.

That is not true. I will give every vestige of my property, and shed the last drop of my blood, to preserve my country. Its not unconditional Unionism to submit to unconditional wrongs. It is not unconditional Unionism tamely to brook the Administration's arbitrary interference with the rights of property, the rights of personal liberty, the rights of free speech, and the rights of free suffrage. But it is unconditional servility which submits to every wrong, and the people who will submit to such violations of the constitution, and of all their great and sacred rights, without protesting against the wrong, and attempting by all lawful means to correct it, are fit only to be slaves. The Union is in danger; how are we to prevent its destruction? By striking down those who are defending it, the Union is in danger; are we to preserve it by imprisoning those who have shed their blood in its defence? by seizing the innocent citizens? by the seizure of property without law? by the violent and reckless use of power in defiance of law and the constitution? Are we to preserve it by permitting an absolutism to be erected upon the ruins of the constitution and of American rights and liberties? Are we to preserve it by sweeping away the freedom of thirty millions of people, and concentrating power in the hands of a few? No; so help me Almighty God, we will preserve not only this Union, but the life and the soul of it—the Constitution with all the great and inherent rights of American citizens treasured in it. There are three parties—Conservative, Radical, and Disunion. Conservatism would preserve not only the Union, but the Constitution. Radicalism pretends to fight for the Union, but lays violent hands upon the written laws of the country, and the personal rights of the citizen, in respect to life, liberty, and property. Disunionism strikes at the National life. It strikes at the life. Radicalism at not only the life, but the soul. Conservatism is unalterably and eternally opposed to both. The success of conservative principles will be life to the nation, because it will be the success of the Union and the Constitution. The success of either of the other two will be eternal, relentless anarchy and despotism, which will brood over the destinies of this country, crushing the rights and liberties of the people as relentlessly as the car of Juggernaut its victims. Because I hold to neither one or the other, I first had to fight one on the battle-field, and the other by facing slander, persecution, and exile. The latter, after kidnapping me, charges me with being a conspirator, and by exiling me, virtually charges me with being a rebel. If I were either one or the other, or both, why did they not try me, and, if guilty, condemn me? Because they knew both charges were groundless and false. If I were guilty of either or both, those who exiled me were guilty of a great dereliction of duty in not punishing me. They knew that I was guiltless; therefore, they did not confront me; they made no direct charges, they gave me no trial. My only crime was in defending free speech, a free press, free suffrage, and in not humbly bowing the knee to a few in power. My knee was not made by the Almighty to bend except only to Him. Never, never will it bend to man. No, Senators, if I had been a conspirator or a rebel, I would not be here. I would have resisted my arrest; my home would have been upon the battle-field; my ashes would have gleamed, and my pistol would have echoed in every conflict. I am no coward, no conspirator; what I am, I have boldly and openly, without fear, and, thank God, without reproach. I was guiltless, I demanded an unconditional release. I obtained it. I would have accepted none other. In being exiled, not only the right of the citizen was stricken down, but the dignity of my native State. Its second officer was kidnapped and without charges and without crime. As far as lay in my power, by refusing anything but an unconditional release, I have preserved my own dignity, and, what is far more important, the dignity and honor of my State. These were my duties. What are yours? Let not history, Senators, say that the Senate of Kentucky were reluctant to defend the right, maintain the honor of the State, and stand up against the wrong.

Here perhaps I should end, but I cannot forbear to touch upon the chief issues of the hour. In times like these it behooves every true citizen to stand up boldly for what he conceives to be the true interest of the country. One should blush at such times to permit a single selfish consideration to actuate his conduct. He should weigh deeply and anxiously, with his heart free from blemish before man and God, what is best, what will be best, for the honor and interests of our beloved country. When he has so matured his mind, let him look neither to the right nor to the left, but press on, right on, whether he "sink or swim," defend what he conceives to be the best interest of the country. We have our duties subject to written law, and to the will of our constituents. We have a written Constitution. It is our duty to obey that instrument until it is set aside in accordance with its own provisions. If we do otherwise, there is an end to written law, and republican institutions are a failure; we are at sea without rudder, and disaster will inevitably follow. Then we must subject ourselves to the will, interests, and rights of our constituents. We have undoubtedly the right to our individual opinions, and should maintain them, but we have no right as representatives of the people to thrust forward our individual opinions in defiance of the written law of the land, and in defiance of the rights, interests, and wishes of our constituents. But we have those opinions; what are we to do?—some will question. Submit always to the law of the land, altering that law constitutionally, if you think it wrong. But our consciences will not permit me to obey either the law or the great mass of our constituents. Then your consciences ought to force you to resign, until the law and the people are changed to suit your views. With these premises, what right have we to abolish slavery in this State regardless of its constitution? Neither the present constitution nor the present desire of the people is in accordance with any such scheme, and I say it earnestly, but most respectfully, we should violate both law and the wishes of the people of the State if we should give effect to any such scheme. I care nothing for slavery—everything for law. If the majority of the people of the State choose to eradicate slavery in accordance with law, I, for one, will cordially acquiesce in that decision; but never against their will and wishes, and against law. Some say, But the greater number of the slaves are already freed by the strong arm of the Federal Government; we emancipate only a few. But you violate the law of your State, and the wishes of the great masses of the people. If the Federal Government has destroyed slavery by the strong arm, let it complete the destruction. I, for one, will not sanction its violation of law. If the Federal Government has the right by the strong arm to eradicate one species of property, it has the clear undoubted right to eradicate another species of property. Slavery, some cry, creates a continual disturbance, and ought to be eradicated. With equal force it might be said of the great national debt that we now have, and are accumulating daily, that it is a great burthen, creates want, and breeds dissatisfaction, therefore it ought to be abolished. You strike down, and undermine one species of property, and you equally strike at all other kinds.

A few words in regard to the proposed change in the Constitution of the Federal Government. I am opposed to it. Because such a change is contrary to the spirit of our system of government; because if ever made, it ought not to be made until all the States are represented in Congress; and because more than one-fourth of the States are not in their places in the Union, and consequently the change cannot be made constitutionally; but if made, must be brought about by fraud and force. It becomes also a wedge which divides us still more as a people, and makes it more difficult to settle our national troubles. This is really the crowning objection to the danger. Let us wait, let us not create new cause of strife and make that cause irascible, but as patriots pour oil upon the troubled waters and work with one heart to unite our divided country, that once we may become a prosperous and happy people. We have had many triumphs to the national arms, let us as a magnanimous, great nation offer these deluded people, "bone of bone and flesh and of our flesh," easy terms.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.

The Richmond Examiner, of the 3d, says:

"The enemy's present plan of campaign is obvious. He seeks to keep up the pressure upon Richmond, and to chain the Army of Northern Virginia to its breastworks. If, in addition, a favorable movement can be seized for rallying out upon the Danville road, and cutting that avenue of supplies, he will surely embrace the opportunity to effect so important a purpose.

"But his aggressive designs are chiefly directed against two important points in South Carolina—namely against Charleston, so long besieged, so prominent in the previous history of the war, so conspicuous in the politics of the South, and so cherished in the affections of the Confederate people, and Branchville, a mere geographical point, but important as being the key to Charleston and the gateway of supplies which come from the States of the Gulf.

"These being the conceded objects of the enemy's present operations, it is not difficult to determine with approximate certainty the destination of Thomas's army. If reports be true he is moving eastward.

"Not many days ago we had intelligence that a detachment of 15,000 men from his army had gone down the Mississippi river and we saw this, they wanted to use only physical force, while I wanted not only physical force, but diplomacy and all other legitimate means that we could bring to bear. The masses of those who rebelled against the Government did it upon the belief that their rights were in danger. How could you dissipate that error? By proving that they were correct? or by disabusing their minds? The Southern people believed that their slave property was in danger by the election of a sectional President. How has the Administration disabused their minds? By emancipating all the slaves of those in rebellion, and not only that, but recklessly and in violation of the most solemn pledges, seizing with violent hands all the slaves in loyal States belonging to loyal men. It is as if you should say to a man that you do not intend to rob him by stealing all that he owns. But you are not an unconditional Union man because you let slave property stand in your way.

That is not true. I will give every vestige of my property, and shed the last drop of my blood, to preserve my country. Its not unconditional Unionism to submit to unconditional wrongs. It is not unconditional Unionism tamely to brook the Administration's arbitrary interference with the rights of property, the rights of personal liberty, the rights of free speech, and the rights of free suffrage. But it is unconditional servility which submits to every wrong, and the people who will submit to such violations of the constitution, and of all their great and sacred rights, without protesting against the wrong, and attempting by all lawful means to correct it, are fit only to be slaves. The Union is in danger; how are we to prevent its destruction? By striking down those who are defending it, the Union is in danger; are we to preserve it by imprisoning those who have shed their blood in its defence? by seizing the innocent citizens? by the seizure of property without law? by the violent and reckless use of power in defiance of law and the constitution? Are we to preserve it by permitting an absolutism to be erected upon the ruins of the constitution and of American rights and liberties? Are we to preserve it by sweeping away the freedom of thirty millions of people, and concentrating power in the hands of a few? No; so help me Almighty God, we will preserve not only this Union, but the life and the soul of it—the Constitution with all the great and inherent rights of American citizens treasured in it. There are three parties—Conservative, Radical, and Disunion. Conservatism would preserve not only the Union, but the Constitution. Radicalism pretends to fight for the Union, but lays violent hands upon the written laws of the country, and the personal rights of the citizen, in respect to life, liberty, and property. Disunionism strikes at the National life. It strikes at the life. Radicalism at not only the life, but the soul. Conservatism is unalterably and eternally opposed to both. The success of conservative principles will be life to the nation, because it will be the success of the Union and the Constitution. The success of either of the other two will be eternal, relentless anarchy and despotism, which will brood over the destinies of this country, crushing the rights and liberties of the people as relentlessly as the car of Juggernaut its victims. Because I hold to neither one or the other, I first had to fight one on the battle-field, and the other by facing slander, persecution, and exile. The latter, after kidnapping me, charges me with being a conspirator, and by exiling me, virtually charges me with being a rebel. If I were either one or the other, or both, why did they not try me, and, if guilty, condemn me? Because they knew both charges were groundless and false. If I were guilty of either or both, those who exiled me were guilty of a great dereliction of duty in not punishing me. They knew that I was guiltless; therefore, they did not confront me; they made no direct charges, they gave me no trial. My only crime was in defending free speech, a free press, free suffrage, and in not humbly bowing the knee to a few in power. My knee was not made by the Almighty to bend except only to Him. Never, never will it bend to man. No, Senators, if I had been a conspirator or a rebel, I would not be here. I would have resisted my arrest; my home would have been upon the battle-field; my ashes would have gleamed, and my pistol would have echoed in every conflict. I am no coward, no conspirator; what I am, I have boldly and openly, without fear, and, thank God, without reproach. I was guiltless, I demanded an unconditional release. I obtained it. I would have accepted none other. In being exiled, not only the right of the citizen was stricken down, but the dignity of my native State. Its second officer was kidnapped and without charges and without crime. As far as lay in my power, by refusing anything but an unconditional release, I have preserved my own dignity, and, what is far more important, the dignity and honor of my State. These were my duties. What are yours? Let not history, Senators, say that the Senate of Kentucky were reluctant to defend the right, maintain the honor of the State, and stand up against the wrong.

Here perhaps I should end, but I cannot forbear to touch upon the chief issues of the hour. In times like these it behooves every true citizen to stand up boldly for what he conceives to be the true interest of the country. One should blush at such times to permit a single selfish consideration to actuate his conduct. He should weigh deeply and anxiously, with his heart free from blemish before man and God, what is best, what will be best, for the honor and interests of our beloved country. When he has so matured his mind, let him look neither to the right nor to the left, but press on, right on, whether he "sink or swim," defend what he conceives to be the best interest of the country. We have our duties subject to written law, and to the will of our constituents. We have a written Constitution. It is our duty to obey that instrument until it is set aside in accordance with its own provisions. If we do otherwise, there is an end to written law, and republican institutions are a failure; we are at sea without rudder, and disaster will inevitably follow. Then we must subject ourselves to the will, interests, and rights of our constituents. We have undoubtedly the right to our individual opinions, and should maintain them, but we have no right as representatives of the people to thrust forward our individual opinions in defiance of the written law of the land, and in defiance of the rights, interests, and wishes of our constituents. But we have those opinions; what are we to do?—some will question. Submit always to the law of the land, altering that law constitutionally, if you think it wrong. But our consciences will not permit me to obey either the law or the great mass of our constituents. Then your consciences ought to force you to resign, until the law and the people are changed to suit your views. With these premises, what right have we to abolish slavery in this State regardless of its constitution? Neither the present constitution nor the present desire of the people is in accordance with any such scheme, and I say it earnestly, but most respectfully, we should violate both law and the wishes of the people of the State if we should give effect to any such scheme. I care nothing for slavery—everything for law. If the majority of the people of the State choose to eradicate slavery in accordance with law, I, for one, will cordially acquiesce in that decision; but never against their will and wishes, and against law. Some say, But the greater number of the slaves are already freed by the strong arm of the Federal Government; we emancipate only a few. But you violate the law of your State, and the wishes of the great masses of the people. If the Federal Government has destroyed slavery by the strong arm, let it complete the destruction. I, for one, will not sanction its violation of law. If the Federal Government has the right by the strong arm to eradicate one species of property, it has the clear undoubted right to eradicate another species of property. Slavery, some cry, creates a continual disturbance, and ought to be eradicated. With equal force it might be said of the great national debt that we now have, and are accumulating daily, that it is a great burthen, creates want, and breeds dissatisfaction, therefore it ought to be abolished. You strike down, and undermine one species of property, and you equally strike at all other kinds.

A few words in regard to the proposed change in the Constitution of the Federal Government. I am opposed to it. Because such a change is contrary to the spirit of our system of government; because if ever made, it ought not to be made until all the States are represented in Congress; and because more than one-fourth of the States are not in their places in the Union, and consequently the change cannot be made constitutionally; but if made, must be brought about by fraud and force. It becomes also a wedge which divides us still more as a people, and makes it more difficult to settle our national troubles. This is really the crowning objection to the danger. Let us wait, let us not create new cause of strife and make that cause irascible, but as patriots pour oil upon the troubled waters and work with one heart to unite our divided country, that once we may become a prosperous and happy people. We have had many triumphs to the national arms, let us as a magnanimous, great nation offer these deluded people, "bone of bone and flesh and of our flesh," easy terms.

---

to what extent negotiations have failed or succeeded until a reply to the report of Stephens and his associates is received from Richmond.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.

SENATE.

The amendments to the enrolment bill were taken up, and the section providing the manner in which State and local bounties shall be paid stricken out.

Mr. Wilson called up the bill in relation to enrolment, as reported by the Military Committee, which is as follows: "That from and after the passage of this act, any person enrolled and liable to be drafted, may be accepted as a substitute for a drafted person, and such drafted person shall be exempt from service for such time as the substitute shall be held to service under the terms of his enlistment.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That no person owing military service shall be exempted from performing military duty on account of furnishing a substitute for the army unless the substitute is presented in person to the board of enrolment by which the principal is enrolled and is accepted by said board of enrolment.

Sec. 3. *Be it further enacted*, That any recruiting agent, substitute, or other person, who shall enlist or cause to be enlisted as a volunteer or substitute any insane person or persons in a condition of intoxication or a deserter from the military or naval service, knowing the same to be such, or who shall deprive any volunteer or substitute of any portion of his State, local, or United States bounty to which he may be entitled, shall, upon conviction by any court-martial or military commission be fined not exceeding $1,000, or imprisonment not exceeding two years, or both, at the discretion of such court-martial or military commission.

Sec. 4. *And be it hereby ordained*, That any officer in the military or naval service any deserter from said service, or insane person, or a person in a state of intoxication, knowing him to be such, shall, upon conviction by any court or military commission, be dishonorably dismissed the service of the United States.

Sec 5. *And be it further enacted*, That all State and local bounties hereafter paid to any volunteer or substitute upon his entry into the military or naval service of the United States, shall be paid in instalments as follows: One-third at the time of muster into the service of such volunteer or substitute, one-third at the expiration of half the term of service, and one-third at the expiration of the term of such service: the residue of his bounty unpaid shall be paid to his widow, if he shall leave a widow; if not, to his children; or, if there be none, to his mother if she be a widow.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the remainder of the unexpired term of any person who shall hereafter enter the military or naval service as a volunteer or drafted man, and shall desert or be discharged by reason of physical disability existing previous to his entering the service, shall be added to the amount drawn from the district to which volunteer or drafted man may be or has been credited, and the same shall be filled from such district by enlistment or draft.

Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted*, In addition to other lawful penalties of crime or desertion from the military or naval service, all persons who have deserted the military or naval service of the United States, who shall not return to said service or report themselves to a provost marshal within sixty days after the passage of this act shall be deemed and taken to have voluntarily relinquished and forfeited their rights of citizenship, and their rights to become citizens; and deserters shall forever be incapable of holding office of trust or profit under the United States, or exercising any right of citizenship; and all persons who shall hereafter desert the military or naval service shall be liable to the penalties of this act.

Sec 8. *And be it further enacted*, The President is hereby authorized and required forthwith, on the passage of this act, to issue his proclamation setting forth the provisions of the preceding sections.

Mr. Hendricks moved that the fifth section be stricken out, and the motion prevailed.

Mr. Buckalew offered an amendment to repeal that section of the enrolment bill which permits Governors of States to send agents to States in rebellion to recruit and fill up their quotas.

Mr. Wilson hoped this wouldn't be adopted.

Mr. Saulsbury would like the Senator from Massachusetts to offer a question. He (Saulsbury) had seen it stated in papers that immediately after the fall of Savannah Massachusetts had agents there to fill the quota of that State. No authority had been given to do this, but, after the slaves had been put on shipboard, Gov. Andrew had made application to the President for permission to enlist these men. It had been granted. He (S.) was opposed to this while the young men of his State (Delaware) had to respond in person to all the drafts.

Mr. Wilson replied that he did not know about this special case, but he knew Gov. Andrew was an earnest man, and was in favor of enlisting blacks. If the agents of Massachusetts were not first on the ground they must have travelled slower than other agents after they started.

Mr. Grimes hoped the amendment would pass. He was opposed to permitting State agents to go to rebel States. If blacks wanted to enlist, they should enlist in the United States service, and not under the auspices of such men as Gov. Andrew sent to Savannah.

Mr. Wilson, in reply to Mr. Saulsbury, said that Massachusetts furnished, up to December 22d, 125,437 men three years, being a surplus of 7,813 more than the Governor had called for. She had furnished 153,000 altogether, and they were equal to 125,437 for three years. She furnished last year 45,446 recruits.

Mr. Sherman—How many of these were credits for naval recruits?

Mr. Wilson—I believe 16,000 men of the entire number of men furnished by Massachusetts 10,622 were foreign born. There has been a great deal said about importations. We imported and put in for Massachusetts 917 men from Germany, and a number of black men were put into the service. Taking the whole enlistments at home and in the rebel States they amount to 4,731. Here is 15,000 altogether out of 125,000 that were born out of the United States.

Mr. Sumner—I am not aware that any abuse has followed this section that was proposed to be stricken out. I am not aware any civil consequence has followed.

Mr. Grimes—Have you read Gen. Sherman's letter?

Mr. Sumner—Yes, I recollect it. It was a very pointed letter—written from the point of the sword rather than the pen. [Laughter.] I therefore submit to the Senate that inasmuch as the section exists, as it is already on our statute books, it should not be hastily removed unless some reason can be shown for the removal. The burden, therefore, is with the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Buckalew), who makes this motion to show that something wrong has been done under this law.

Mr. Buckalew—I will explain by saying that I desire each State to raise its own troops within its own limits, so that no State shall be able by the favoritism of the President or the War Department to fill its quota.

Mr. Sherman advocated the repeal of section 151. It was not necessary now, he said, for State agents to go to armies as all the Generals in the field were doing their best to secure the enrolment of colored men. It was the opinion of our best Generals that the provision proposed to be stricken out was a great evil.

Mr. Ten Eyck was in favor of Mr. Buckalew's amendment, which was passed by 28 to 12.

The Senate adopted a clause striking out the third section of the bill passed last winter which permits recruiting for State credits.

Mr. Howard offered an amendment to the amendment by inserting in the third section after the words, "be fined not exceeding six thousand dollars," the words, "or imprisonment not exceeding two years nor less than three months," which was adopted.

Mr. Sumner moved to strike out from the third section the words "or other person" after the words "that any recruiting agent or substitute broker," &c.

Mr. Wilson said the section referred to was not asked for by the Administration; it was designed to protect men everywhere; the African slave trade paled before the cruelties of the substitute brokerage; men were seduced from insane hospitals and put into the army; men were drugged and put into the army in an insensible condition; more than that their bounty was taken from them; out of twenty-five hundred dollars they sometimes got no more than one hundred dollars. He understood that in New York city they had a brokers' board which they regulated in Wall street.

Mr. Conness suggested to so amend the section that it would read "that any recruiting agent, substitute broker, or other person, who shall for pay or profit enlist," &c. This was adopted.

HOUSE.

Mr. Cox offered a resolution that the President, in endeavoring to ascertain the disposition of the insurgents in arms against the authority of the Federal Government with a view to a negotiation for peace and the restoration of the Union, to the gratitude of a suffering and distracted country, has omitted no exertion, and that with a similar view he be requested to omit no honorable exertions hereafter which may lead to that object, viz: peace and Union.

Mr. Ross moved to lay the resolution on the table, which was decided in the negative by a vote of 31 yeas against 105 nays.

The resolution then went over until next Monday.

CAIRO, Feb. 6.

The reported evacuation of Mobile is confirmed. The Times says the information is undoubted. Twelve refugees who left Mobile on the 16th, and arrived at New Orleans on the 30th ult., stated that the evacuation commenced on the day of their departure; that the guns and ordnance stores were going to Selma by rail and water. Simultaneously with this movement a sweeping conscription was going on among the citizens of Mobile, to escape which the people were fleeing from the city by squads. It was the general impression in Mobile that no defence of the city would be attempted. Its garrison was small, composed of militia under the command of Gens. Taylor and Mowry.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 6.

A special to the Evening Telegraph, dated Washington 6th, says: The Richmond Whig has the following:

Charleston, Feb. 2.—A despatch from Braxton Bridge, dated 7:30 last night, says the enemy advanced to-day across Whippy Swamp driving our cavalry on our left, six miles from this place. They are supposed to be in heavy force. There is also a column of cavalry on the Augusta road moving rapidly from some unknown point. Whippy Swamp is about thirty miles northwest of Pocotaligo and about the same distance southwest of Branchville. Before reaching the latter place Sherman's troops will have to cross several tributaries of the Combahee as well as the Edisto.

Later.—The enemy has possession of McBride's bridge and skirmishing is going on in front of Braxton bridge. The enemy is certainly moving on Branchville.

A despatch from Adams Run says the enemy came up in barges to Young's Island, yesterday about noon, and drove in our pickets. They fired several buildings on the plantations and are retiring this forenoon. Their steamers are off White's Point and a landing is threatened.

Adams Run is about twenty miles from Charleston.

NEW YORK, Feb. 6.

The Commercial's Washington special says: It is confidentially asserted that the President will issue a proclamation setting forth the refusal of the peace negotiations, and calling on the people to fill up the ranks of the armies and assist in closing the war by overwhelming military operations.

The Post's Washington special says: The new tax bill reported to the House this morning imposing an income tax of ten per cent on all accounts exceeding three thousand dollars per year; on crude petroleum five cents; cigars sixty cents per thousand; manufactured tobacco forty cents per pound. The present rate of taxation on manufactured goods is increased twenty per cent. The section taxing all sales is reported, but its adoption is not recommended. No tax is laid upon State Bank circulation.

The Post's special says: It is reported that the President will send a special message to Congress to-morrow announcing the cause of the failure of the attempt at peace negotiations.

The Express's special says: Messrs. Stephens, Hunter, and Campbell's demand was for a ninety days' armistice, and not independence. The President and Secretary of State refused, and the party will sustain them in the refusal.

Postmaster Read, of the gunboat Granite City, lately paroled from Camp Groce, Texas, publishes an account of the inhuman treatment of the prisoners who have been confined in Texas for several months. The barbarity of the rebels at Andersonville and Salisbury is repeated at Camp Groce. The food is insufficient, and of very bad quality, and the prisoners are subjected to constant insult and indignity. In September and October the mortality was one per cent per day. Out of one hundred and eleven naval prisoners seventy-nine have died.

The Herald's Washington special says: It is stated that the number of rebel prisoners desiring to take the oath of allegiance has greatly increased within the past few weeks. During January over one thousand took the oath at Point Lookout alone and were released.

The World's Port Royal special says: The position already gained by Sherman open to his advance the greater portion of the rebel territory northward. The ultimate points of the advance is not yet understood, but the results will happily disappoint the North.

The Richmond Whig says: The deficiency of supplies is owing to a lack of transportation, and urges the soldiers to bear short rations patiently.

The same paper states, on the authority of the Santiago Herald, that the French, on arriving in Matamoras, complimented the Confederate flag with a hearty salute, when they passed to the Yankee flag in contempt. The Confederate flag is reported waving over the stores, taverns, and saloons of Matamoras.

The Dispatch calls Branchville the key to Charleston and the gateway of all supplies from the Gulf States. It thinks that Grant's plan of campaign is to keep the Army of Northern Virginia chained to its breastworks, and cut the Danville road, if possible. At the same time Sherman will operate against Charleston and then move northward.

The Mobile Register says: The meat crop of Alabama and that part of Mississippi not occupied by the enemy, is double that of any other year. Gen. Brown reports that Hood's army lost 61 cannon.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.

The National Intelligencer of this morning says: It is now clear enough that the war must go on with renewed energy. There can be no excuse now for holding back men or money. To the utmost the rebel leaders insist on a dismemberment of the government as a sine qua non to any negotiation. We almost state by authority when we say that the rebel leaders who attended the recent conference declared that civil war would follow in the South were a proposition of restoration to the Union submitted to the people. Now this statement is either wanton misrepresentation or it means that there is a formidable Union sentiment in the Southern States ready to take up arms for the old flag; for certainly we cannot suppose that these men meant by such a declaration that they would be glad to hazard the proposition for re-union if they were not fearful that such a step might lead to a revolt against themselves.

The Richmond Dispatch of the 4th says: It was thought that a portion of Sherman's force might attempt to cross the Saltkehatchie river seven miles above the railroad bridge. The 20th corps was still at Robertsville. The 14th corps was crossing at Robertsville. The sum of everything that is known on this subject amounts to only that we have believed for several days that Sherman is moving on Branchville in force. Beauregard has arrived in Augusta, and taken charge of the operations there. We presume the forces at Branchville are also under his control. A very regular cannonading could be heard throughout yesterday in the direction of Bermuda Hundred. We have heard no explanation of the firing. It is possible that the Yankees have resumed the work on the canal.

Captain Hatch, of the exchange bureau, who started for Washington as secretary to the peace commission, made his unexpected appearance in this city last night, having come through Grant's lines yesterday. He brings no intelligence of the commissioners, not feeling himself at liberty to answer questions on the subject, nor has it been found possible to ascertain the cause of his speedy return.

Gold yesterday was quoted at $45 for one, though small sums sold at $44 50, and even at $44.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.

The Committee on the Conduct of the War made a report to-day relative to the failure of the attack on the enemy's lines before Petersburg. It happens that the explosion under the several batteries was the suggestion of Colonel Pleasants, of the 48th Pennsylvania, and the mining was mainly the work of his regiment. The plan of attack was submitted to General Meade by Burnside, who proposed to place two brigades of colored troops, who had been drilling with reference to the attack for some weeks, in advance of the attacking column. Meade objected because they had not been under fire, and referred the matter to Grant, who decided that the white troops should lead the assault. He said the evidence that he ordered Burnside to put his colored division in front, and I believe if he had done so, it would have been a success.

The order for planning the mine was given by Gen. Meade. Gen. Burnside labored to induce Gen